BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO.103 BENGALURU | FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 36 | PRICE ₹6**

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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The Rajya Sabha MPs who recently switched from AAP to BJP **decided to do so after discussions in Parliament,** where they sit together, **reveals Swati Maliwal**

India's sporting ambition receives a boost after Olympic Council of Asia formally acknowledges country's bid to host 2038 Asian Games. Governing body states that an 'inspection and evaluation committee' will soon visit India

Jason Holder and Shubman Gill power Gujarat Titans (158/6) to a comfortable 4-wicket win against defending champions RCB (155) in Ahmedabad as GT reach the target in 15.5 overs, P 19

Defence secretary Pete Hegseth is 'causing lasting harm to the military', Senate Armed Services Committee's top Democrat says as the panel hosts the Pentagon chief for a second day of congressional testimony, P 18

THE TIMES OF INDIA Presents TIMES CRITICAL THINKING CHAMPIONSHIP

Inspired by TIMES FOUNDATION | Institutional Partner Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya

As AI and information overload reshape learning, critical thinking is becoming as vital as knowledge itself. TOI's **Times Critical Thinking Championship** returns in 2026, aiming to reach one million students nationwide and help classrooms nurture young minds that question, verify, analyse and make independent, reasoned judgments | P 7

SC to AIIMS: You can't force 15-yr-old to become mother

'Parents' Word Will Be Final On 30-Week MTP'

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Taking exception to AIIMS Delhi repeatedly seeking reconsideration of the Supreme Court's order for termination of a 15-year-old girl's 30-week pregnancy, citing health hazards for her and the foetus, a two-judge bench Thursday said govt must respect a citizen's autonomy of choice as a minor can't be burdened with motherhood and life-long stigma.

CJI Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi told AIIMS to explain the pros and cons of medical termination of pregnancy (MTP) to the parents of the girl, who became pregnant in a relationship with a 17-year-old boy.

IT'LL BE PREMATURE DELIVERY: AIIMS

- AIIMS doctors say MTP at 30 weeks would be premature delivery which would create future reproductive **complications for the girl, and deformities for the child**
- SC says call is for girl and her parents to take. 'Give respect to the citizen's choice. **Share your data and let them choose'**
- AIIMS profs say **delay of 4 more weeks will result in normal delivery,** with little risk to the girl and the child
- Court responds that 'medical personnel, because of their specialised knowledge, cannot become the masters of the will of people... **Doctors can't decide for patients**

> It's a fight between a foetus and a child. She (minor girl) cannot be forced to bear a child... We must decide what is less painful and stigmatic between termination of pregnancy and making the 15-year-old a mother —CJI Surya Kant

Additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for AIIMS, made an impassioned and emotional plea, saying termination is impossible at this stage and it would have to be a premature delivery, which would create future reproductive complications for the girl, while the baby would be born with several deformities, requiring prolonged neonatal intensive care.

If it can be deferred by four weeks, it would be a normal delivery, and the child would be healthy, coupled with little risk to the girl, explained AIIMS professors Aparna Sharma (gynaecology) and Ramesh Agarwal (paediatrics). They said the state would take care of the baby and chances of adoption would be higher.

SC issues notice on mom's contempt plea

Supreme Court Thursday issued notice to AIIMS-Delhi and the Union health secretary on a contempt plea by a mother for not complying with its order for termination of pregnancy of her 15-year-old daughter. Asking AIIMS what its "agenda" was in seeking review of the April 24 verdict, SC said it would be forced to frame charges if the defiance continued. P 8

CJI Kant empathised with the ethical dilemma faced by doctors, but remained firm that the choice made by the minor's parents, after they have been informed about possible complications, should take precedence. "Parents will choose & the institution (AIIMS) may enable the choice," Justice Bagchi said.

▶ Citizen's choice, P 8

Mamata claims bid to open EVMs, EC says boxes secure

Tamaghna Banerjee and Dwaipayan Ghosh | TNN

Kolkata: Central Kolkata's Khudiram Anushilan Kendra, the designated counting centre for seven north and east Kolkata assembly constituencies, witnessed a confrontation between TMC and BJP late Thursday after CM Mamata Banerjee's party alleged tampering of EVMs by "unknown people" purportedly caught on CCTV entering the strongrooms there.

CEO Manoj Agarwal dismissed allegations of EVMs and postal ballots being tampered with. "There is nothing suspicious about it. The strongroom is ringed by three-tier security. No one can enter except for authorised officers," he told reporters.

TMC candidates Shashi Panja and Kunal Ghosh staged a roadside protest there while CM Mamata camped at Sakhawat Memorial High School, the strongroom for the Bhowanipore seat that she is contesting against BJP's Suvendu Adhikari. CAPF and Kolkata Police personnel ringed both strongrooms amid sloganeering by TMC and BJP workers eyeballing each other.

Mamata urged her party's candidates across all 294 Bengal constituencies to maintain a round-the-clock vigil at EVM strongrooms until May 4, saying there would be attempts to tamper with EVMs.

▶ Stand-off escalates, P 8

DANCE of DEMOCRACY

- Calcutta HC **upholds EC's authority to appoint central and PSU staffers as counting supervisors,** rejects TMC challenge that alleged potential bias in favour of BJP. EC says it was done in Kerala too | P 7
- **IUML backs opposition figure V D Satheesan as potential Kerala CM candidate** in wake of opinion polls projecting a victory for UDF in the state | P 8
- **Scattered violence erupts across Kolkata** and its northern industrial fringe. TMC and BJP trade allegations of attacks, firing and reprisals | P 7
- **Court grants bail to I-PAC director** after **ED chooses not to oppose his plea,** citing his cooperation in probe | P 8

Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee at Sakhawat Memorial School

'FDI may have crossed $90bn in 2026 fiscal'

India's foreign direct investment inflows may have crossed the $90 billion mark for the first time in 2025-26, secretary at department of promotion of industry and internal trade Amardeep Singh Bhatia said Thursday, adding that trade deals would provide further impetus to trade and investment inflows. P 17

Zip Through Toll Plazas

India's toll plazas are set for a barrier-free shift, with **Multi-Lane Free Flow** tolling to go live at Choryasi on NH-48 from May 1 and Delhi's Mundka by mid-May, **reports Dipak Dash.** Using cameras, radars, scanners and FASTag data, vehicles can cross at up to 85kmph without stopping, with toll deducted automatically. **TOI** takes a test drive down the fast lane. P 15

4 dead, 17 missing as tourist boat capsizes in Jabalpur's Bargi dam

Jabalpur: A cruise boat operated by MP tourism department capsized Thursday during a sudden storm in a reservoir of Jabalpur's Bargi Dam on the Narmada, leaving four people dead and 17 missing even as 22 were rescued, **reports Siddharth Pandey.**

Officials said the vessel was carrying 43 people, including the captain and two other crew members, when it got caught in a sudden and severe windstorm following an abrupt change in weather Thursday evening. This caused the vessel to lose control and overturn. Data from the meteorological dept indicated that a sudden weather shift around 6pm led to wind speeds surging to 60-70kmph, creating turbulent conditions in the dam's reservoir. Officials said the high-velocity winds are believed to have destabilised the cruise, leading to the accident. Rescue operations were on till the filing of this report late Thursday night.

Rescuers search the capsized cruise boat (left) for survivors

Captain Madan Patel was among the rescued, aided by life jackets. Another passenger was saved later. The other two crew members are among the missing. Some of the survivors alleged that life jackets were distributed only after the vessel started sinking.

Sunjay Kapur's assets frozen till 'doubts settled'

The Delhi high court on Thursday froze late businessman Sunjay Kapur's Rs 30,000-crore estate and said the burden of dispelling doubts over the legitimacy of his purported will rests on his wife, Priya Kapur, until the dispute is resolved. The interim order freezes equity shareholdings in three Indian firms held by the deceased and restrains disposal of his personal effects, including artwork, **reports Abhinav Garg. Flap opp**

India's crude imports in April 85% of Feb level

Atul.Mathur@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Russia remained the largest source of crude for India in April, supplying 1.6 million barrels a day (mbd), followed by Saudi Arabia, UAE, Venezuela and Qatar, data from shipment-tracking firm Kpler has shown.

India imported nearly 4.4 mbd of crude in April, marginally lower than in March (4.5 mbd) and 85% of Feb shipments (5.2 mbd), amid the ongoing disruption of supply flows through Strait of Hormuz. Supplies from Russia were down 20% from nearly 2 mbd in March, which was the highest since May last year. While Saudi Arabia (685,000 barrels a day) and UAE (575,000 barrels a day) ramped up supplies, India resumed imports from Iran and Venezuela to plug the gap caused by disruptions from other West Asian nations. No shipments arrived from Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar or Saudi-Kuwait neutral zone in April, despite Iraq usually being among India's top crude suppliers.

RUSSIA TOP SOURCE

▶ Trump floats more plans to reopen Strait of Hormuz, P 18

▶ Oil from Iran, P 13

K'taka students outperform nat'l avg in ICSE, ISC

The Council for ISCE Thursday declared the Class 10 and Class 12 results for 2026, with overall pass percentages of 99.18% and 99.13%, respectively.

Karnataka students registered a pass percentage of 99.77% in Class X and 99.96% for Class XII, outperforming the national average. Girls outperformed boys in both examinations.

The council introduced critical-thinking questions this time, reflecting a decisive move away from rote-based testing. P 3

▶ UP's 'Helen Keller' tops class with 98.7% in ISC, P 8

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Greater Bengaluru Authority

Bengaluru City Corporations

North • South • East • West • Central

Sri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
& Bengaluru City Development Minister

The Foundation Stone Laying and Inauguration of Development works by the GBA and BMRCL

by Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister & Bengaluru City Development Minister

Sri D.K. Shivakumar

Date: 01.05.2026, Friday

Ragigudda - Central Silk Board Rail-cum-double-decker road flyover	Skywalk Construction work at Banashankari Junction	Inauguration of Commercial Complex and Multi-storey Car Parking in Gandhi Bazaar	Inauguration of the Vehicle Parking Complex on the ground floor of K.R. Market building	Inauguration of Dynamic lighting system on Metro Pillars
at 3.30 p.m. H.S.R. LAYOUT - Ramp Entrance	at. 4.15 p.m. BMTC Bus Stand, Banashankari	at 5.00 p.m. Gandhi Bazaar Road	at 5.45 p.m. K.R. Market	at 6.45 p.m. M.G. Road Metro Station
• Total Cost **Rs. 499 crores** • 5.12 kms Length • Signal Free Corridor	• A Captivating Model of the Banashankari Skywalk • Facilitate pedestrian and vehicle traffic	• Cost : **Rs. 22 Crores** • 6-storey Commercial Complex • Multi-storey Parking Facility • 51 shops and 24x7 parking facility for 128 LMV four wheelers	• **10,000 sq m** Area • 24x7 parking facility for 200 cars and 400 two-wheelers • Separate parking arrangements for women, senior citizens and the specially abled • Real-time parking information through digital displays, web portals and mobile apps	• Total Cost : **Rs. 3.08 Crores** • Beautification of M.G. Road metro pillars • In the first phase, between Trinity and Anil Kumble Circle on M.G. Road • 160 metro pillars in next phases

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As is enshrined in our constitution "to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture" - is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

Bangalore Times

Sujoy Ghosh on decade-long *Kahaani 2* plagiarism row:

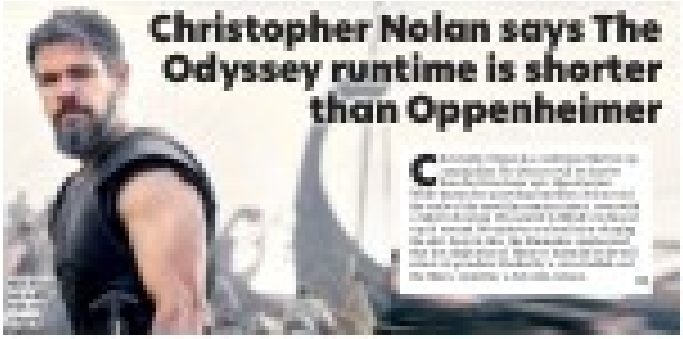
'It was one battle after another'

I play what's needed, not who I am: Dhruva

Buzzstop

KPOP DEMON HUNTERS DIRECTOR APPEARS IN BTS DOCU-SERIES

Christopher Nolan says The Odyssey runtime is shorter than Oppenheimer

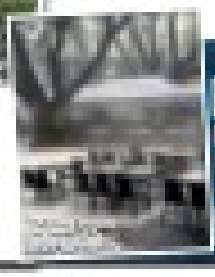


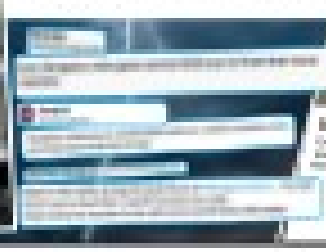
BEYOND DINING OUT: B'LURU TURNS TO HANDS-ON COOKING EXPERIENCES

P2

From hail to havoc

Talk of the town





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*Teaching Excellence Framework 2023, Research Excellence Framework 2021
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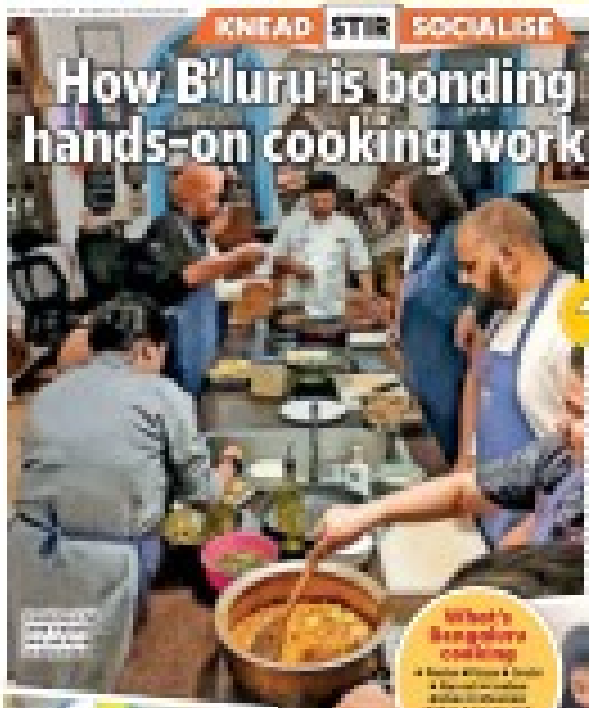
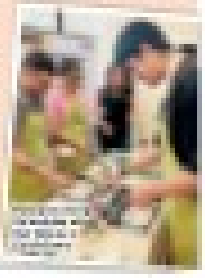
No one is born a great cook. One learns by doing. - Julia Ortiz

KNEAD STIR SOCIALISE

How B'luru is bonding over hands-on cooking workshops





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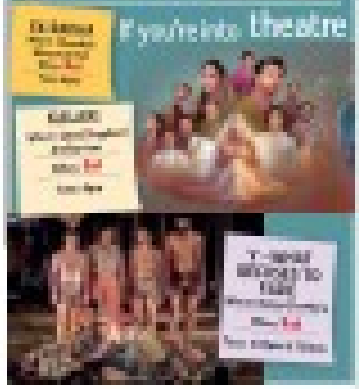
If you're into dance

If you're into comedy

If you're into workshops


If you're into theatre

K'taka students record near-perfect pass percentage in ICSE, ISC exams

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Karnataka students registered a pass percentage of 99.77% in class X and 99.96% for class XII under Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, whose results were announced Thursday morning.

In Karnataka, 31,018 students from 454 schools appeared for class X exam (ICSE), and 2,673 students from 67 schools wrote class XII exam (ISC). The pass percentage of class XII improved compared with last year, while it remained the same for class X.

Karnataka students outperformed the national average. Across India, the pass percentage for ICSE was 99.18% and for ISC was 99.13%. Schools pointed out that despite the council introducing critical-thinking questions in exams this time, students have managed to perform well.

Angelina Wilson, principal, St John's High School, Promenade Road, said: "Despite the big changes and introducing analytical and concept-based questions in the exam papers, our students fared well. Till the recent past, there was a lot of emphasis on rote learning that has changed this year."

"Our students did well in English, history and civics. But in ISC, commerce subjects saw a fall," she added.

Jean George of MG School for Excellence said: "Overall, the results have been better than last year, English has been universally good, with many centums. In ICSE, while students scored well in geography, many lost out in history. Sciences were, on the other hand, good."

"In ISC, the biology paper was tough, but the scoring was good. In commerce, many students did not secure as much in accountancy and economics. Overall, students are happy. Very few are applying for recheck," she further added.

Chethan Shivakumar

In Karnataka, 31,018 students from 454 schools appeared for class X exam (ICSE), and 2,673 students from 67 schools appeared for class XII exam (ISC). The pass percentage of class XII improved compared with last year, while it remained the same for class X

BIG CELEBRATION: Students cheered each other on and distributed sweets to celebrate ICSE and ISC results at Bethany High School in Koramangala Thursday

ICSE (Class 10)

Status	Boys	Girls	Total
Qualified	15,438	15,510	30,948
Not qualified	51	19	70
Total appeared	15,489	15,529	31,018

ISC (Class 12)

Qualified	1,283	1,389	2,672
Not qualified	0	1	1
Total appeared	1,283	1,390	2,673

CATEGORY STATISTICS

- **ICSE:** 14,376 OBC students took the exam and secured 99.71% pass percentage
- 14,068 general category students took exam and secured 99.91% pass percentage
- **ISC:** 572 OBC students wrote exam and secured 100% pass percentage
- 1,962 general category students took exam and secured 100% pass percentage

ICSE student beats the odds, scores 94.8% while on chemo

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Vaibhav's classroom was often his home. His school streamed live classes and even arranged special evening sessions to ensure he didn't fall behind. For most of class 10, he attended school online, while his treatment schedules sometimes forced him to miss days at a stretch

Bengaluru: For Vaibhav Mahapatra, a student at Primus Public School, exams were not the only litmus test he was facing. He was fighting a bigger battle — cancer.

Diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) in Feb 2024, when he had just stepped into class 9, Vaibhav's life took an unexpected turn. What followed was months of chemotherapy sessions, frequent medical consultations and physical exhaustion — circumstances that would derail even the strongest of people.

Yet, two years later, Vaibhav emerged with an outstanding 94.8% in ICSE Board examinations.

"It has been a hard and painful journey," Vaibhav said, adding: "But I've always been determined to do well. I think the main thing is temperament — you need to be really strong."

Unlike his peers, Vaibhav's classroom was often his home. His school went the extra mile — streaming live classes and even arranging special evening sessions to ensure he didn't fall behind. For most of class 10, he attended school online, while his treatment schedules sometimes forced him to miss days at a stretch. "I attended very few offline classes, maybe just three. The rest, I joined from home. Teachers were really supportive. If I missed something due to consultations, they helped me catch up."

Even as he balanced studies with treatment, Vaibhav refused to let illness define him. He stayed active, finding time in his interests. "I love chess and cricket. Last year, I came second in a state-level chess tournament," he said.

Today, while he continues on oral medication, his condition is stable and his focus is firmly on the future.

Having opted for science in class 11, Vaibhav plans to return to regular offline classes, a step he looks forward to after two years of distance learning. Asked how he managed to keep going through it all, his answer is simple yet profound: "If you really want to do well, you will find ways. Where there's a will, there's a way. Somehow, it just happens."

*From a science high scorer who took up the subject accidentally, to a commerce topper who loves learning under presssure, the cohort of high scorers in ICSE/ ISC examinations is an interesting mix. **TOI** caught up with a few of them after the results were announced*

HARD WORK PAYS OFF

Toppers left no stone unturned to ace exams

SCIENCE

Chose science accidentally

The science high scorer in class XII, **Victor Manoj** (99.5%) from St Joseph's Boys High School, chose science by accident. Initially inclined towards Commerce, he switched streams early on after he found the initial days in Commerce classes boring. "It was accidental, but I found science interesting," he admitted, adding he chose to continue in Science regardless of his eventual career plans in business. "Whatever I do, I make sure I give it my best. That matters more than just interest and has helped me score good marks," he said

Victor's larger goal is independence and creative freedom. "I want to build something of my own, make decisions, and enjoy the freedom." He would like to expand his family's publishing and distribution business.

Taking gap year to pursue medicine

Keerthana Rajesh (99.5%) from St Patrick's Academy has decided to take a gap year and is heading to Pala, Kerala, for intensive NEET preparation. "My main focus this year was on class 12 boards. I did attend coaching, but couldn't fully balance both. So I've decided to dedicate a year entirely to NEET," she said. Keerthana said her interest in medicine was shaped early in life and her grandmother played a big role in it.

She credited consistent study habits and extensive practice for her success. Beyond academics, Keerthana has been serving as a cultural head in her school and participating in dance. She is the daughter of a teacher and an IT professional.

COMMERCE

Balancing CLAT & board exams

With a CLAT score of 25, **Vidhita Dhamija** (98.75%) from Vibgyor High, Haralur Road, is eagerly waiting for her NLSIU (National Law School of India University) stint. "Commerce seemed like the right path as it allowed me to prepare for law entrances alongside," Vidhita said.

Her interest in law began during her school years through participation in Model United Nations (MUN) conferences. "That's when I realised I enjoy studying how legal systems work," she said. "I focused on making the most of school hours by paying attention in class, and then dedicated time at home for CLAT preparation. After Dec, I shifted my focus completely to board exams," she said.

Meanwhile, another student of Greenwood High School, Harshil Praveen, scored 98.3% in commerce.

HUMANITIES

Not on conventional path

Aarohi Prasanna Oke (99.5%) Bethany High School, Koramangala, is set to join Ashoka University in Sonipat for a programme in economics and international relations. "Reading newspapers helped me connect what I was learning with real-world issues. We often discuss geopolitics at home, and that played a big role," she said.

She chose humanities after class 10. "I didn't want to follow conventional path of engineering or medicine. My school offered humanities with subjects like psychology, sociology, and economics, that I found engaging," she said.

Space is what fascinates her

For **Sragvi Bhagavan** (99.8%), Vibgyor High, Kadugodi, conceptual clarity and consistency are very important. "I focused on understanding concepts from the beginning and later worked on my weak areas while practising as many papers as possible. Maintaining a balanced routine across subjects was important," she said.

Space is what fascinates her. "I've always been intrigued by how vast the universe is and how small we are in comparison. That curiosity drew me towards astrophysics," she said. She credits her father, a software engineer, for nurturing this interest. Having now taken PCMC in NPS Whitefiled, she is preparing for JEE. She hopes to pursue astrophysics.

Other high scorers: ICSE

Ruchika KR, SSM Public School, Nagasandra — 99.6%

Debanuj Prasanna Mahanta, St Patrick's Academy — 99.4%

Tanishka B Majage, Bethesda International School, Kengeri Satellite Town — 99.6%

BETHANY EDUCATION BOARD & BETHANY JUNIOR COLLEGE
Koramangala, Bengaluru.
We once again celebrate and congratulate all the students and staff of Grade XII (ISC) for achieving 100% First Class and above in the Board Examination 2025-26.

OUR TOPPERS

HUMANITIES

AAROHI PRASANNA OKE 99.50%

SCIENCE

MANYA GUPTA 98.50%

COMMERCE

ALICE FLORA D'CRUZ 96.50%

SUBJECT TOPPERS

ENGLISH
- AAROHI PRASANNA OKE 99

PHYSICS
- MANYA GUPTA 98
- SAMAH SHARIQ 98

BIOLOGY
- SAMAH SHARIQ 97

CHEMISTRY
- MANYA GUPTA 99

COMPUTER SCIENCE
- K TANMAYEE 98
- THANUSHREE N 98

MATHEMATICS
- MANYA GUPTA 99

ECONOMICS
- AAROHI PRASANNA OKE 100

COMMERCE
- ABISHEK PAUL J 96

ACCOUNTS
- ALICE FLORA D'CRUZ 99

PSYCHOLOGY
- AAROHI PRASANNA OKE 99

BUSINESS STUDIES
- ALICE FLORA D'CRUZ 98
- ABISHEK PAUL J 98

SOCIOLOGY
- MYTHRI BHATT 100
- SHIRINAA PUTTY 100
- SRINITHI NARAYANAN KONNAYAR 100

ELECTIVE ENGLISH
- ESTHER JOANNA XAVIER 99

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
- DAKSH KATTEMAR 100

ART
- AAROHI PRASANNA OKE 100

HOME SCIENCE
- SAANVI ABROL 99

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Nandini Layout to wake up to energetic Sunday

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

File photo

Bengaluru: Following an energetic debut, Happy Streets by **The Times of India** will return to Nandini Layout for its second edition Sunday, May 3. The stretch near Oxford Secondary School will once again be transformed into a vibrant, vehicle-free zone, offering residents a space for fitness, recreation and community interaction.

The morning's line-up promises a blend of wellness and entertainment.

Activities will begin with yoga and pranayama sessions conducted by Sarvebhavanthu Sukhinah Yoga, setting a calm and refreshing tone. This will be followed by a high-energy Zumba and fitness dance session led by Swingers Dance Inc.

Adding to the engagement, presenting partner Bhima Jewellers will host a quiz, with giveaways and a lucky draw. Music performances by Mic & Melody and the World Music Conservatory are expected to draw crowds, while 'From Mug to Mic' will offer vocal training for aspiring singers.

Dance performances by Jagan Jagz's Dance Studio, Twister Dance and Fitness Academy, and Mac Studios will add colour to the event. A martial arts showcase by Aryan Martial Arts will also be part of the initiative.

BHIMA presents HAPPY streets — OUR ROADS. OUR WAY.

Machine operator crushed to death

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: An industrial accident at a casting unit in Bommasandra Industrial Area claimed the life of a 33-year-old machine operator, sparking allegations of negligence against the company management.

According to a complaint filed by supervisor Mukti Newar, Khemlal Newar Pradhan, the victim, was working as a machine operator at Dimo Castings. Mukti is a relative of Khemlal, and both worked for the same firm.

Khemlal was working near a die-casting machine around 2pm at the time of the incident. His head was crushed in the machine, leading to instant death, the complaint said. Mukti alleged Dimo Castings had failed to implement basic safety measures.

"There were no adequate precautions or safeguards in place while operating such dangerous machinery," the complaint stated, holding the company officials responsible for the lapse. Hebbagodi police registered a case.

BETHANY EDUCATION BOARD & BETHANY HIGH SCHOOL
Sarjapur, Bengaluru.
We once again celebrate and congratulate all the students and staff of Grade X (ICSE) for achieving 100% First Class and above in the Board Examination 2025-26.

OUR TOPPERS

CHRISTINA JOY 99.2% | DHANVIN POTHINENI 98.6% | DARSH PODDAR 98.4% | HIMANK SONI 98.4% | SAMARAH ANOOP VARGHESE - 98.4%

SUBJECT TOPPERS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
- ANANYA MISHRA 99
- CHRISTINA JOY 99
- HIMANK SONI 99
- JUDE THOMAS MEKAT 99
- MRINMAYI BASU 99
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FINANCE

DAY AFTER DOWNPOUR Community Comes Together For Bookstore Even As Experts Reflect On Rainwater Going To Waste

BOOKS DAMAGED, SPIRIT INTACT @BOOKWORM

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: After rainwater flooded The Bookworm on Church Street Wednesday evening, it was love and warmth wrapped in concern that flooded the store in the ensuing 24 hours.

Hours after heavy rain damaged more than 5,000 books, the next morning saw voluntary efforts being made to save books from further ruin. Students, regular customers, publishers, and even fellow booksellers walked in — unannounced or in response to a simple online post by the store.

"I came around 9.30am and started segregating dry and wet books," said Senthil Kumar from Srishti Publications. Along with several others, he helped carefully pack dry books for resale and lay out damp ones under the sun. "We are regulars. It felt natural to come together."

That instinct to show up — without a nudge — was echoed throughout the day.

Among the first to arrive was Ravi Menezes, owner of Goobe's Book Republic, another store on the street. His connection to The Bookworm runs deep. "When I started my store, Krishna was the first to support me," he said. "I've also lost books to rain before. I know how that feels." Menezes joined the clean-up effort and promised to rally support and contribute creatively — through a cartoon capturing the incident — to amplify support online. Among the hundreds, Anand from Higginbothams and Keshava from Bookhive also helped The Bookworm owners out.

Pics: TOI

Friends & strangers joined hands Thursday to write a new chapter for The Bookworm

For Krishna Gowda and Uma Krishna, who have run The Bookworm for nearly three decades, the scale of response was overwhelming. What began as a pavement bookstore 29 years ago has grown into a cultural fixture, and Thursday was a reminder of the relationships built along the way.

"The support has been incredible. We've missed so many calls and messages." Krishna's phone alone held more than 2,000 unread messages — each one, he said, an offer of help. "Some of our readers have suggested we do 'a wet book fair'. It was conducted previously in Kolkata. We are considering it now if our readers support the idea."

Notably, the couple declined monetary donations. Instead, people offered to donate their own books for resale. Others showed up with time and effort for the store.

Some customers bought water-damaged books to offset losses. Rishwant Reddy, a patron, said, "I've found treasures here before — signed copies, rare editions. That's what this place means to me." Vivek Roy travelled from Yelahanka with a similar intent. "Buying a few wet books is the least I can do."

Among the affected titles were literary and cultural gems — 'The Penguin Book of Indian Poets' edited by Jeet Thayil, William Dalrymple's 'In Xanadu', Poornachandra Tejaswi's 'Jugaari Cross', Arundhati Roy's 'Mother Mary Comes to Me', Michelle Obama's 'Becoming,' and vintage editions like 'The Listener' from 1956.

Vulnerable locations across city being identified & mapped: DKS

▶ Continued from page 1

Siddaramaiah said over 250 trees were uprooted by the rain that lashed Bengaluru Wednesday. He directed civic agencies to fix potholes, clear debris, and strengthen monitoring.

With monsoon approaching, the CM instructed zonal commissioners to step up preparedness, including desilting stormwater drains and managing flood-prone areas, while ensuring safety around vulnerable infrastructure.

As part of immediate safety steps, Shivakumar said vulnerable locations across the city are being identified and mapped, with a focus on clearing encroachments around dangerous structures. "Instructions have been given to remove street vendors from unsafe structures in the city. Weak trees and branches on all roads in Bengaluru are being pruned. Police and BBMP officials have prepared a joint list," he added.

In Kalaburagi, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge urged the Karnataka govt to take preventive steps and address structural safety concerns. "One version called it an old compound. Another version claimed it was not constructed properly. Govt should act and ensure there is no repeat of such incidents," he said.

11cm in just 1 hr: Deluge could have filled 30k pools, 2/3rds of city lakes

Niranjan.Kaggere@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: The squally thundershowers along with hailstorms that lasted a little over an hour Wednesday evening across central Bengaluru — hailed as the wettest April day in the city's recorded climatological history — poured over 11cm of rain, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD).

But how voluminous was this 11cm of rain, and what could Bengaluru have done with it? According to meteorologists, hydrologists, and water conservation activists, the sheer volume of rain reveals a striking story of both abundance and missed opportunity for a city that has invested several crores of rupees into fetching water from as far as 300-400km away.

According to sources in the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), based on preliminary rain damage assessment, hydrologists have estimated that Bengaluru may have received 20 to 22 million cubic metres of water, which translates to about 0.75 tmcft — enough to fill little over 30,000 standard 25-metre swimming pools with a depth of 5-6ft.

"Bengaluru, standing on a geographical ridge at an elevation of 900 metres, annually receives 95cm to 110cm of rain. As per IMD figures, this means Bengaluru received nearly 10% of its annual rainfall on a single day. This rainfall would have been enough to meet the city's water requirement for a fortnight," explained a hydrologist.

A missed opportunity

A senior IMD official said whatever rain was received Wednesday evening was wasted by being allowed to run off into the drains. "... with the paved, cemented surfaces all over central Bengaluru, very little water has gone down to the water table. The rain may have brought sorrow and suffering, but it was also an opportunity to collect a humongous amount of water," a meteorologist explained.

A lake activist, working with the civic body on the restoration of several lakes across the city, said, "With all the encroachment and sedimentation in our lakes and waterbodies, the storage capacity of major lakes in and around Bengaluru was reduced from 5 tmcft in 1970 to a mere 1.5 tmcft in 2025. Going by the volume of rainfall recorded, these thunderstorms could have filled up two-thirds of the storage capacity of the surviving lakes..."

Pics: TOI, Muthu P, Agencies

WEDNESDAY WRECKAGE: The record rain brought the city to its knees as trees came crashing down and infrastructure broke down, resulting in human casualties & property loss. Many roads remained blocked, fully or partially, the day after as Bengaluru picked up the pieces

DOWNPOUR IN NUMBERS

Average rainfall 55mm

Highest rainfall 92mm (Central Bengaluru; Cottonpet, Binnypet, Sampangirama Nagar, Shivajinagar, Subhash Nagar

Lowest rainfall 15mm (Parts of north Bengaluru)

Source: GBA

Hailstorm damages AG's chamber in HC building

The sudden hailstorm that lashed the city Wednesday evening damaged the chamber of the advocat- general of Karnataka, situated within the high court building. Rainwater gushed into the chamber through the roof of the 168-year-old building, next to an air-conditioner duct.

It not only damaged various electronic devices but also drenched some documents, despite hectic efforts from the staff as well as junior advocates to shift important items from the chamber. The chamber's false ceiling was also damaged.

There were leaks in the chambers of a few judges and other sections of the high court as well. The cubicles of govt advocates, located close to the AG's chamber, were also impacted. In the new building — the annexe building — water entered corridors as well as balconies.

Maladministration led to deaths near hosp: Lokayukta

Terming the wall collapse tragedy that claimed seven lives at Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital (rechristened Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Hospital) as a fallout of maladministration, Karnataka Lokayukta Justice BS Patil Thursday announced that action will be taken against those responsible.

Accompanied by Upa Lokayuktas Justice B Veerappa and Justice KN Phaneendra, Justice Patil interacted with the injured persons and instructed officials to ensure free, high-quality treatment for them. "Prima facie, it is proved that the fallen compound wall was made of cement blocks with a weak foundation. Dumping of a huge quantity of sand next to the compound further weakened the structure, which collapsed in the rain," Patil said, adding a suo motu case would be registered against the officials concerned. "GBA officials and others should do city rounds to identify more such dilapidated structures, where children and others walk around. Such weak structures should be demolished immediately and new ones should be built," he said.

Record 12.8L passengers used Metro to escape traffic

Namma Metro recorded its highest single-day ridership Wednesday, with over 12.8 lakh passengers opting for its services amid heavy rain and slow-moving road traffic across the city. The figures include around 2.5 lakh commuters who used the interchange stations at Majestic and RV Road to travel to different parts of the city. This marks a new milestone for the Metro network, surpassing the previous record of 10.8 lakh passengers, sources said.

Evicted hawkers: Where do we go, how will we earn?

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Karnataka govt's announcement Thursday that street vendors would be evicted from near Bowring Hospital has rattled hundreds of traders, who are looking down the barrel with no assurance on allotment of kiosks in designated hawking zones.

When **TOI** visited the spot in the afternoon, the footpath which held 300 vendors was empty. Barricades had replaced carts, minus the din of the trade. "The govt has not held anyone responsible for the tragedy. Now, they are depriving us of a place where we earned our daily bread. Not sure what lies ahead," said family members of 35-year-old Azzu, who was injured in the head, and 20-year-old Sajid, who suffered a spinal injury.

SV Shaan, a street vendor from Shivajinagar, said their question to the area MLA and govt is direct: "We are told we cannot return to that place. Where do we go and how will we earn a living?"

Many vendors had long sought designated spaces in official hawking zones but were never allotted any. "If we had our kiosks, Azzu, Sajid and others would not have met with this tragedy. There is no clarity whether this was govt's or the hospital's fault. We need proper and early allocation in hawking zones," he said.

Mohammed Zabiulla, a cousin of the injured Syed Zameer, said: "The tragedy occurred because of lapses in civil work. What's the point of blaming or evicting street vendors from places where they have worked for years?"

Agencies

TRAGIC TURN: Seven people were killed and many others injured when a compound wall at Bowring & Lady Curzon Hospital crumbled in the rain

200 reasons to remember his colleague

Bengaluru: A friendly loan of Rs 200 — insignificant, yet an integral part of the bond among street vendors — has made Naseer Ahmed indebted to Naseemullah, who died in the Bowring Hospital wall crash, for life.

Naseer and Naseemullah were colleagues on Meenakshikoil Street in Shivajinagar for three decades. Naseer Ahmed, a cloth vendor, said, "Naseemullah had not given me a chance to repay the loan. I never expected he would be a victim in the rain-triggered tragedy."

For a strange reason, Naseer, who came to his shop on the street on Monday and Tuesday, chose not to turn up Wednesday. In hindsight, there were enough reasons for his sudden absence: unremitting heat, dull business, mid-week blues. That unexplained decision saved his life. He said: "This must be God's plan. He wanted me to live a little longer!"

Survival has placed a burden hundred times heavier than the size of the loan that was not repaid. "It broke my heart when I heard the news," Naseer said. "That money helped me. He was my neighbour, and we shared the space and our struggles," he said, adding that the vacuum will remain so. — **Hamsaveni N**

Deadly underpass floods again

Hamsaveni.N@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Nearly three years after a software engineer lost her life in a flooding incident, the underpass at KR Circle was submerged once again in Wednesday, raising fresh questions about the effectiveness of mitigation measures and the accountability of civic agencies.

The underpass, which witnessed the tragic drowning during pre-monsoon rain in May 2023, was inundated with over 12ft of rainwater, following downpour in the central parts of the city.

As of Thursday evening, pumping operations were under way, with authorities struggling to clear accumulated water. An engineer from Bengaluru Central City Corporation overseeing the situation said the flooding was exacerbated by run-off from surrounding elevated areas. "Yesterday's rain was intense, and water from nearby sloping stretches, including Vidhana Soudha Road and Century Club, flowed into the underpass. We currently have three machines pumping water, but the absence of fire emergency support has slowed down the process," the engineer said. The underpass was immediately closed to traffic to prevent any casualties.

The GBA chief commissioner, Maheshwar Rao, said structural interventions are being considered. "The existing drain at the entrance is insufficient to handle the volume of water. We plan to build a cut drain at the entry point and cover the top of the underpass with sheets to prevent rainwater ingress."

Muthu P

SLUDGE & STENCH: After the evening downpour Wednesday, KR Circle underpass was immediately closed to traffic to prevent any casualties

Lokayukta to reopen probe

The recurrence of flooding has also revived scrutiny from Karnataka Lokayukta, which had issued notice to multiple officials following the 2023 incident. Sources indicated that Lokayukta is set to take up the matter again Monday, as repeat flooding indicates earlier measures were ineffective.

METRO WRAP

5% tax rebate deadline extended to May 31

In a major relief for property owners across Bengaluru, govt Thursday extended the deadline to avail 5% rebate on property tax for 2026-27 fiscal year. The discount period, originally set to expire on April 30, has been extended till May 31. The extension applies to all taxpayers within GBA of five city municipal corporations. Property owners must pay their total annual tax in a single instalment to avail the rebate offer.

23kg ganja found in youths' bag

Two youths from West Bengal were caught with over 23kg of ganja at Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal (SMVT) railway station Wednesday evening. The Railway Protection Force's crime intelligence wing intercepted the duo around 4.30pm after they arrived by Duronto Express and were moving suspiciously on platform nos. 4 and 5 with trolley bags. They had hidden 23.6kg of dry ganja, valued at Rs 11.8 lakh. The accused are Rimnujaman Minya (26) and Arif Sekh (24).

Speeding car kills calf

A speeding car fatally struck a month-old calf on KSRP service road near Koramangala Tuesday. Constable Shilpa TM rushed to the spot after being alerted by a passer-by around 8.45am. Eyewitnesses were unable to identify the vehicle or note its registration number.

Trains to be partially cancelled

Due to ongoing engineering works in Chennai division of Southern Railway, KSR Bengaluru-Jolarpettai Memu train and its return service will be cancelled between Somanayakanpatti and Jolarpettai stations on May 5, 7 and 12, railway officials said.

Commuters urge KSRTC to increase inter-state bus fleet

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Bengaluru: Commuters have flagged an acute shortage of state-run buses on routes connecting Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, forcing them to rely heavily on private operators.

They complain of frequent overcrowding, especially during weekends and festive seasons, on key routes including Kadapa, Madanapalle, Tirupati and Srikalahasti via Chintamani-Madanapalle, and Bengaluru-Ramasamudram via Punganur.

Sri Sai, 30, from Madanapalle, said, "Currently, there are only two KSRTC buses operating between Bengaluru and Kadapa via Madanapalle. The situation is even worse for routes like Bengaluru to Tirupati and Srikalahasti via Chintamani and Yelahanka. Private buses dominate the route. For regular commuters like me, shortage of safe and reliable public transport is a major concern. Even a few months ago, there was an accident at Gownipalli, a border village. No one wants to travel by private buses, but we are forced to."

Wassem Akram, 25, resident of Ballari, who works at Marathahalli, said, "Govt buses from Bengaluru to Ballari are very limited. There are four services in the morning, and only two in the evening. In contrast, private buses operate throughout the night with over 20 services. A govt bus ticket costs Rs 376, while a private sleeper coach is around Rs 500. But due to unavailability, many opt for private buses."

All-Karnataka State Road Transport Employees' Federation attributes the overload to Shakti, the govt's free bus scheme for women. Drivers and conductors say they are struggling with overcrowding. Conductors are forced to manage heavy passenger loads, while drivers must deal with delays, stress and increasing risk of breakdowns and accidents.

TOI

Passengers complain of frequent overcrowding, especially during weekends and festive seasons

B Jayadevaraje Urs, secretary general, transport employees' federation, said nearly 40% of the fleet is overaged and continues to operate due to lack of funds and delayed replacement, even as rising fuel costs and weak revenue generation strain the corporation's finances.

"Passenger load has surged, especially with a sharp rise in women commuters, pushing occupancy from around 60% earlier to nearly 90%-95%," he said. "Besides overcrowding, it has led to long wait times and operational pressure. We have been demanding that the govt replace unfit, overaged vehicles and increase the number of buses, as many are no longer roadworthy and are prone to breakdowns and accidents."

The state economic survey for 2025-2026 states KSRTC's daily passenger volume has climbed to 34.8 lakh from 29.7 lakh recorded before Shakti scheme. Women make up 66% of these total daily passengers.

As per agreement: Officials

KSRTC officials said the corporation operates 279 buses to places in Andhra Pradesh in line with provisions of an inter-state transport agreement between the states. A KSRTC spokesperson said: "In the 9th supplemental inter-state transport agreement, we have agreed to 420 buses on new routes and 92 additional ones on existing routes. The agreement will be implemented after Andhra Pradesh publishes a final notification which is mandatory for both states."

1,500 buses to be added

Congress has blamed the previous BJP govt for acute shortage of buses, claiming it did not purchase even a single bus during its tenure. KSRTC now plans to induct 1,500 buses in the 2026-27 fiscal. At present, it operates across 17 southern districts in Andhra, covering 20,090 of 21,748 villages — 92.4% of its service area.

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Govt to shift non-UGC guest faculty to coordinator roles

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The govt has decided to appoint guest lecturers without University Grants Commission (UGC)-prescribed qualifications as academic coordinators in colleges across the state.

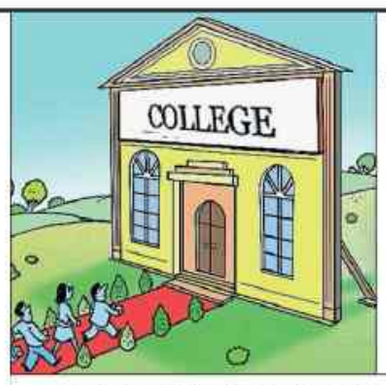
The Karnataka high court in 2024 directed the consideration of educational qualifications prescribed by UGC in the selection process of guest lecturers. In Oct 2025, the court dismissed a review plea filed by the state govt. Thus, all guest lecturers need to have NET/SLET/PhD to teach in colleges.

Karnataka has 10,335 guest lecturers. Of them, 5,267 have UGC-prescribed qualifications, while 5,068 did not make the cut. Meanwhile, 1,215 teachers may be appointed as there were no eligible candidates available in those subjects.

So the other guest faculty — around 3,853 with more than five years' experience — will be appointed as academic coordinators from 2026-27.

"We have taken the decision on humanitarian grounds as they have worked with our colleges for several years. As the court also clearly said guest faculty should be appointed based on UGC-prescribed qualifications, we had to drop them during the counselling to hire guest faculty this year," higher education minister MC Sudhakar said Thursday.

The academic coordinators will take care of administrative tasks, become assistants in labs and libraries, handle examination tasks, career guidance and psychological counselling, among others. This will be a temporary arrangement for three years with a fixed remuneration based on the experience of the candidates. It will cost the state exchequer Rs 95 crore annually.



The academic coordinators will take care of administrative tasks, become assistants in labs and libraries, handle examination tasks, career guidance and psychological counselling

CET: Govt considering retest for 5 students

The govt is considering giving the option of a retest to five students who were asked to remove their religious symbols during the Karnataka Common Entrance Test (KCET) last week.

A girl student who was asked to remove her hijab did not write the physics paper, while four boys, who were forced to remove their sacred thread, said they could not concentrate on the test because of the incident. "Awarding grace marks is ruled out as it will create legal issues. But, if the students wish to take a retest, we will discuss it," the higher education minister said.

Set up engg education reforms authority: Panel

An expert committee on reforms in technical education, headed by the founder-director of International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore (IIIT-B), S Sadagopan, has recommended establishing a Karnataka engineering education reforms authority (Keera).

Minister Sudhakar said, "We will bring in structural reforms in engineering education based on recommendations of the committee. For the establishment of Keera, we need to bring an act, which we will discuss and decide soon."

Court permits SSLC-based admissions to paramedical diplomas for 2026-27

The Karnataka high court has issued an interim order permitting the admission of students who have passed SSLC examination to various paramedical diploma courses for the year 2026-27.

It comes as a relief for the Karnataka State Paramedical Institutions Managements Association, which has around 640 colleges.

Justice ES Indiresh observed in the recent order that member institutions of the association are eligible to admit students to various diploma courses, including those in medical laboratory technology, optometry technology and imaging technology.

The order is subject to the consideration of the representation by the association to state govt and National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP).

The association submitted to the commission on Feb 11 with a request to relax admission criteria for 2026-27 and to state govt on March 23, 2026, with a plea for granting approval for admissions, based on SSLC qualification (earlier criteria), to the courses that were omitted under NCAHP Act.

Cow theft case booked 20 months late stayed

Bengaluru: Criticising police for not registering what it termed "real crimes," the Karnataka high court has stayed proceedings against four members of a family in a cow theft case.

"Real crimes you don't register ... You knock on a police station 100 times to register a real crime. But two cows went missing two years ago, then you registered a crime," Justice M Nagaprasanna orally observed while granting interim relief to Mangalamma and three others of her family, who had challenged the case registered by MK Doddi police in Channapatna taluk.

The complainant, Dasaiah, alleged that one Shekar had informed him that Mangalamma and her family members had sold two cows, which had gone missing in Aug 2024. Based on the information, an FIR was registered against the family in March 2026.

Justice M Nagaprasanna noted that there was a significant delay in lodging the complaint, without any plausible explanation. Allowing such proceedings to continue would amount to an abuse of the process of law on the face of it, he said. TNN

KIA int'l passenger traffic up 24% amid global uncertainties

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

TOI

FLYING GROWTH: KIA handled nearly 44.5 million passengers in 2025-26, registering a 6.2% rise compared to the previous year

Bengaluru: Kempegowda International Airport recorded a robust passenger traffic growth in 2025-26 by handling nearly 44.5 million flyers, registering a 6.2% rise year-on-year.

According to KIA operator Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), international traffic emerged as the key driver, increasing by 23.9% to 7.2 million passengers, while domestic traffic grew by a modest 3.3% to 37.2 million. The steady rise comes amid global uncertainties.

In terms of transit passengers, KIA's two terminals together saw an approximate 22% increase compared to 2024-25, which contributed to 15% of the total traffic.

While domestic transfers remain the most established segment, growing at approximately 3.2%, international transfers are expanding at over 50%, reflecting significant long-term potential.

During the last fiscal, new international destinations such as Hanoi and Riyadh were added. Key destinations such as London Heathrow, Bangkok, Bahrain, Jeddah, Phuket, Kuwait, Kathmandu, Munich and Mauritius saw increased frequency, BIAL stated.

Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Singapore, London Heathrow and Kuala Lumpur were the most popular international destinations, while Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Pune remained the top domestic sectors. The domestic network also saw additions of Navi Mumbai, Jaisalmer, Bidar, Silchar and Dimapur airports.

Cargo business recorded a rise of 6% with 5.3 lakh tonnes of goods transported. Mango exports grew 12% to a five-year high, while coriander volumes increased 13% year-on-year.

HC: Revenue dept can't act on land under GBA

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Revenue authorities have no jurisdiction to entertain any complaint or pass any orders under the Karnataka Land Revenue Act on land under the jurisdiction of the erstwhile BBMP — now Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) — even if it remains categorised as agricultural, observed the Karnataka high court.

Appellants C Parimala and others, comprising landowners and subsequent purchasers of sites, challenged a notice issued by the tahsildar of Yelahanka in 2014, under the Act, calling upon them to vacate their land, allegedly used illegally for non-agricultural purposes.

On Sept 26, 2024, a single bench ruled against them, with a direction to the tahsildar to implement the notices issued in 2014. However, Parimala and co-petitioners were reserved the liberty to establish their rights.

BBMP submitted that the Kenchenahalli village in question came within its jurisdiction by a govt notification dated Jan 16, 2007. The court was also told that construction on this land was done during 2017-18.

The HC division bench, comprising Justices DK Singh and TM Nadaf, noted recently that the land was within BBMP's jurisdiction and hence outside the purview of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act.

"We are of the view that the revenue authorities have lost their jurisdiction to take any action either implementing the earlier order from 2014-2022 or by means of issuing notice and passing orders under the provisions of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act," it said.

The writ appeals are disposed of, modifying the order passed by the single bench, with the observation that BBMP/GBA may take action as provided in the provisions.

Neta's murder found to be premeditated

▸ Continued from page 1

Venkatesh Kurubar was riding back after meeting friends when the assailants chased him in a car, rammed his two-wheeler, knocked him down and hacked him with machetes and other weapons. He later succumbed to injuries.

The convicts are Ravi Basavaraj, Vijay alias Mailari Hanumanthappa, Dhanaraj Laxmanrao, Bheema alias Bharat Kariyappa, Saleem Mohammed Rafiq and Gangadhar Gouli Baburao.

The murder, which sparked political outrage, was found to be premeditated and rooted in personal enmity. Police launched a massive manhunt and arrested several accused, while four surrendered at Kampli police station in Ballari district and confessed.

Those acquitted are Karthik, Dadapeer, Mohammed Altaf, Mallikarjun, Hartoti Sharan and Chaitra.

Fake IAS officer who conned J&K doctor chargesheeted

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A chargesheet filed in a city court details how a 44-year-old Bengaluru man pretended to be an IAS officer and tried to dupe a Jammu & Kashmir doctor

₹2.7CR LAND DEAL

in a Rs 2.7-crore land deal near Kempegowda International Airport.

HN Sujayendra alias Sujay, from Bengaluru's RPC Layout, was arrested in Nov 2025 following a complaint from Dr Raja Langer, alleging the accused had duped him of money in the deal.

Police said Sujayendra convinced Langer he would help his family buy land near KIA and collected money in two instalments for land-related clearances. With no progress and Sujayendra avoiding him, the doctor approached cops. Three more suspects, including a seer, were named in the case. Owing to lack of evidence, police dropped their names from the chargesheet.

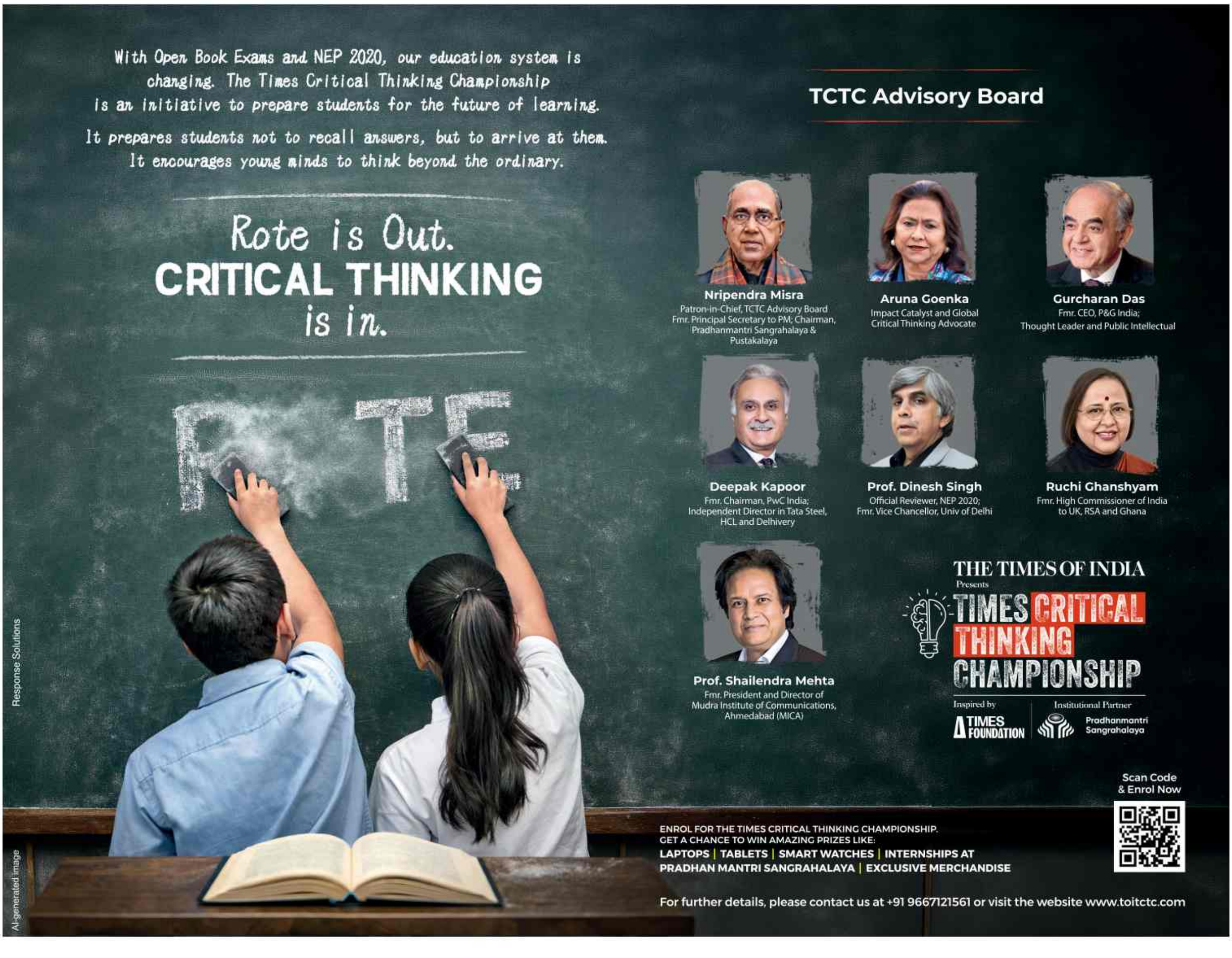
In his complaint, Langer alleged Sujayendra visited Jammu in March 2023 and convinced his father to buy land near the airport. The doctor's family transferred Rs 1.5 crore to Srinivasa Construction Company, owned by Sujayendra. He promised to give land papers within a week.

"Instead, Sujayendra started offering my father plum positions in the Centre and state, calling himself a well-connected person holding a high position in the central govt. He changed the proposal to 'heritage homes', stating the title papers would be given only after construction of these homes. He demanded Rs 1.2 crore as construction amount. As we had already spent Rs 1.5 crore and were scared of losing it, we paid the additional amount. After receiving a total of Rs 2.7 crore, he mostly stopped responding. A while later, he replied the deal would not happen and he would return the money," Dr Langer stated in his complaint.

During investigation, police found Sujayendra had three seals of the ministry of home affairs (two red and one blue) as well as a letterhead of the Karnataka governor.

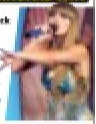
"We wrote to MHA officials and Karnataka governor's office. The governor's office said Sujayendra never worked with them and the letterheads were fake. Officials from the governor's office filed a separate case," a police officer told **TOI**.

"The preliminary chargesheet explains how Sujayendra befriended the victim doctor and cheated him of Rs 2.7 crore. We have not stated anything of Sujayendra posing as an IAS officer and staffer from the Union ministry office as we are waiting for replies from the ministry," he said.



WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY

Man pleads guilty in Austria to plotting attack on Taylor Swift concert



He-Man creator Roger Sweet Passes Away at 81

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Can Kharge emerge CM face amid tussle for top post?

ManuAiyappa.Kanathanda
@timesofindia.com

TOI

Kharge is perceived as a neutral figure and his acceptability across factions is seen as a key factor. Unlike Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, his role as national party president places him above state-level rivalries

> Mallikarjun Kharge as a consensus CM candidate looks good in theory. But would it be a step down since he is party president and LoP in Rajya Sabha? His stature and image are much higher than being CM, and as Congress president he sits in on discussions on CM candidates for the party across the country
>
> **Sandeep Shashtri** | PSEPHOLOGIST

Bengaluru: All India Congress Committee president Mallikarjun Kharge Thursday ruled out an "immediate" change in chief minister in the state, even as his name continues to circulate within party circles as a potential consensus candidate if the high command moves to resolve the tussle between Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar.

"You (reporters), he (G Parameshwara) and people at the top say that it is better if I become (the chief minister), but more than fate, as per my ideology and going by my service to the party, Sonia Gandhi takes decisions regarding me," Kharge said.

Despite a long career, Kharge has not held the CM post. He was a strong contender in 1999, but the position went to SM Krishna. That decision marked a turning point in his state-level politics, though he later went on to hold key roles at both state and national levels.

Kharge is perceived as a neutral figure unaligned to any camp, and his acceptability across factions is seen as a key factor. Unlike Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, his role as national party president places him above state-level rivalries, giving him institutional weight and distance from the conflict. The makes him an ideal bridge candidate if party brass opt for a reset without resistance.

Kharge's experience adds to this perception. With over five decades in public life across Karnataka and at the Centre, he is seen as having the administrative depth to manage a complex state unit. At the same time, internal discussions tend to factor in his age. At 83, and with periodic health concerns, there is speculation that a shift to state politics could reduce demands for extensive national travel.

His possible elevation is also being assessed through a social and electoral lens. If he is picked, he would be Karnataka's first Dalit CM, a move that could carry symbolic weight and expand the party's social outreach. Some believe it would counter any anti-incumbency ahead of the 2028 assembly elections.

Kharge's record at the Centre is being cited to support his credentials. As Union labour and employment minister from 2009 to 2013 in the UPA govt, he was associated with labour welfare measures and social security initiatives, especially for workers in the unorganised sector. He later served as railway minister in 2013, focusing on operational continuity and infrastructure projects and won accolades.

As opposition leader in the Lok Sabha from 2014 to 2019, he led Congress despite the party lacking the numbers for formal recognition, remaining active in debates and legislative scrutiny. As opposition leader in the Rajya Sabha, he played a role in coordination and floor management. Members also highlight his role in securing special constitutional status for the Hyderabad-Karnataka region under Article 371J, which enabled targeted development and reservation in education and public employment for the backward region.

Siddaramaiah will continue as CM for now, says Kharge

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

ANI

MEET & GREET: CM Siddaramaiah called on Shakuntala Hegde, wife of former CM Ramakrishna Hegde, and enquired after her health, in Bengaluru on Thursday

Kalaburagi/Bengaluru: In a shot in the arm for chief minister Siddaramaiah, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge Thursday said there will be no "immediate" change at the helm in the state. He said there is still time for a decision on a change in chief minister, and it would be taken at an appropriate stage. "Let the time come," he said.

His remarks gain significance since supporters of deputy CM DK Shivakumar claimed a transition could take place by May 15, coinciding with his birthday.

Dismissing speculation, Kharge said the question of replacing Siddaramaiah "does not arise". "If a decision is taken, it would be a collective one by party brass, including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi," he said.

Asked about Kharge's remarks, Shivakumar said, "There is no confusion at all. For anything, you ask Mallikarjun Kharge saheb. I will not respond to questions on CM change. This is a matter left to the party high command — they will decide."

On reports projecting him as a possible consensus candidate, Kharge rejected the suggestion, attributing it to media speculation.

"Everyone says it, and the media reports it. Party brass and functionaries say it would be good if I become CM. However, rather than treating it as a matter of fate, we work according to our party's ideology. Most of our decisions are taken by Sonia Gandhi. In any case, that question does not arise now, as Karnataka already has a CM in place," he said.

The issue gained traction after Shivakumar's recent three-day visit to Delhi. Soon after, many ministers seen as close to Siddaramaiah also travelled to the capital and urged the high command to settle the matter.

MLAs aligned with Shivakumar continued to assert that a change is imminent. Ramanagara Congress MLA Iqbal Hussain, a Shivakumar supporter, said that he would assume office on or before May 15.

CONG SEES EDGE IN TN, KERALA

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge was confident alliances involving the party would secure clear majorities in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, while outperforming exit poll predictions in Assam. "I feel DMK will get a clear majority in Tamil Nadu. in the same way in Kerala, UDF will get a majority," he said. In West Bengal, he suggested a tough fight, adding, "Our information suggests TMC is ahead." He alleged "oppression and intimidation" by BJP through central forces in Bengal. He said Congress fought for growth and mounted a strong challenge in Puducherry.

SHORT TAKES

Congress expels six more in Davanagere

Congress expelled six district functionaries for alleged anti-party activities during the Davanagere South assembly byelection, deepening internal tension in the party. HB Manjappa, president. Davangere district Congress unit, said MT Subhash Chandra, former Waqf Board chairman Siraj Ahmad, Ghani Taher, Kadati Tippesh, UM Mansoor Ali and Inayatulla Khan were removed for supporting MLC Abdul Jabbar, who was previously removed as KPCC minority wing chief. Manjappa said the six insulted party functionaries during the byelection and caused embarrassment to the party. He also said local members do not want Jabbar re-admitted and would protest if he is taken back.

Data parks proposed in B'luru, M'luru

The govt plans to set up sustainable data centres in Bengaluru, Mysuru and Mangaluru with total capacity of 1,000Mw capacity. The decision was taken after a meeting of industries minister MB Patil, IT-BT minister Priyank Kharge and energy minister KJ George. Under the proposal, a 500Mw data centre will be set up near Hoskote and will run on solar power generated from Pavagada. Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board has promised to supply 60MLD of treated water. In Mangaluru, the centre is likely to be set up on a 350-acre plot belonging to KIADB in Baikampady industrial area.

Transfer Shivamogga airport to Centre: MP

BY Raghavendra, MP, said he has requested the state govt to hand over Shivamogga's Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Airport to the Union govt. He said the state govt dispatched a senior IAS officer to Delhi to discuss the transfer process to Airports Authority of India and during these discussions, the state raised two primary points: Whether the Centre would reimburse costs incurred so far and whether the airport's maintenance could be handed over to private players. He said the airport was important for central Karnataka.

Yettinahole work to resume: DKS

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

TOI

PAPER WORKS: Deputy CM DK Shivakumar with water resources department officials on Thursday

Bengaluru: Deputy chief minister and water resources minister DK Shivakumar said pending work on the Yettinahole integrated drinking water project will resume within a week. Following a review meeting, he said the Union environment ministry had directed the state to pay Rs 257 crore, including penalties and a mitigation plan.

"I ordered this sum to be paid immediately, and we have instructed contractors to start work within a week," he said. Shivakumar revealed the Centre had returned the project file with certain conditions, and the revenue department is transferring alternative land to the forest department.

He said about 10% of the land transfer is pending and will be completed within the next week. He said a survey would be conducted for land acquisition in Tumakuru districts, adding water would be supplied to Chikkaballapur and Kolar districts soon. On the Mekedatu project, he said a DPR is ready and will be submitted to a sub-committee. "We have revised the cost again. We need to provide about 5,300 acres of land to the forest department," he said.

Get building plans, land use changed while local area master plan is being prepared

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The govt has permitted development-related approvals to continue during the preparation and revision of master plans to prevent delays in investment, economic activity and urban growth.

An order issued last week says that in newly formed local planning areas (LPAs), approvals such as land conversion, layout sanctions and building plan clearances can be issued based on prevailing statutory provisions and planning norms until the first master plan is finalised.

In existing LPAs where a master plan is already in force but under revision, approvals for change of land use, layouts and building plans will continue to be granted strictly based on the existing approved master plan and zonal regulations until the revised plan comes into effect.

Officials said the move aims to ensure development is not stalled during the transition period between planning cycles. In its order, the govt noted that master plan preparation and revision often take considerable time, during which development permissions were typically kept in abeyance. It said this hampered planned urban expansion and slowed down economic momentum.

The order reiterated that during the preparation stage, permissions might be considered based on interim or draft master plans. Additionally, change of land use proposals could be submitted until the draft master plan is prepared, subject to their integration into the revised plan.

Suresh M Kiresura, former president, Consulting Civil Engineers Association, and Sridhar R, a civil engineer, both welcomed the move, saying: "It will help property owners develop and construct buildings even during the transition period."

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Founder: Sri Lakshmi Venkateshwara Temple, Chikka Adugodi, Blr.
You will remain an Inspiration forever. We Miss you always
Remembered by: Children, Daughters-In Law, Sons-In-Law, Grand Children & Great Grand Children. S.R. FAMILY

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Family Members

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Sri. C. Narayana Reddy the then M L C
Founder: Sree Meenakshi Sundareshwara Devalaya, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru.
Left for his heavenly abode on 01-05-2001
"Without being attached to the fruits of activities, one should act as a matter of duty; for by working without attachment, one attains the Supreme." - Ch.3, Verse 19, Srimad Bhagavadgita
Deeply touched by your affection and kindness and reverentially soliciting your kind blessings.
Smt. Vanitha & Sri N. Swaroop Kumar, Smt. Priyanka & Sri N. Shashank Kumar, Narayan Swaroop, Navrathan Swaroop, Aayana Shashank, Arha Vihana Shashank, Relatives & Friends

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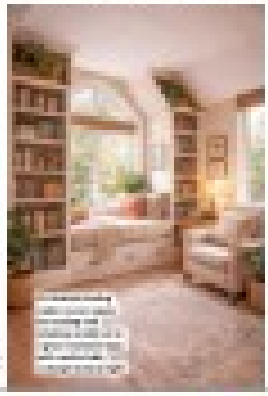
Reading nooks become a home essential



Designing with light and comfort

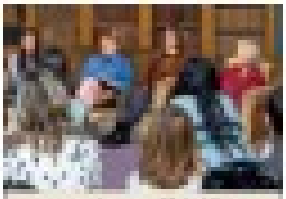
Reflect broader lifestyle shifts

Tips to create a reading nook

Large in interest for reading nook ideas

Miu Miu gives a stylish spin to literary clubs

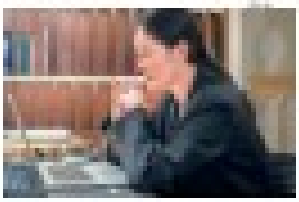
Books that started it all



Conversations and big ideas

How to: Create tin-foil decor for your home

Rain check, literally: Employee wins paid leave in viral raffle



Swipe, watch, read: The #BookTok phenomenon

TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026

OMAR ABDULLAH, VAISHNAW FLAG OFF FIRST JAMMU-SRINAGAR VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS

CBI COURT BEGINS TRIAL AGAINST HARYANA EX-CM BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA IN HUDA PLOTS CASE

HACK OF THE DAY — **PIN IMPORTANT WHATSAPP MESSAGES FOR FUTURE REFERENCE**

WHAT IT SOLVES: Keeps one critical message visible inside a chat, such as an address, meeting link, payment detail, deadline, or event instruction

WHAT TO DO: Pin a specific WhatsApp message instead of expecting everyone to scroll back and find it

STEPS:

1. **Open** the WhatsApp chat or group
2. **Press** and hold the message you want to pin
3. **Tap** Pin(Android)/Star(iPhone) from the menu
4. **Choose** how long the message should remain pinned
5. **Use** it for information the whole group will need repeatedly

NOTE: This is different from pinning a chat. It pins the exact message inside the conversation, which is far more useful for groups

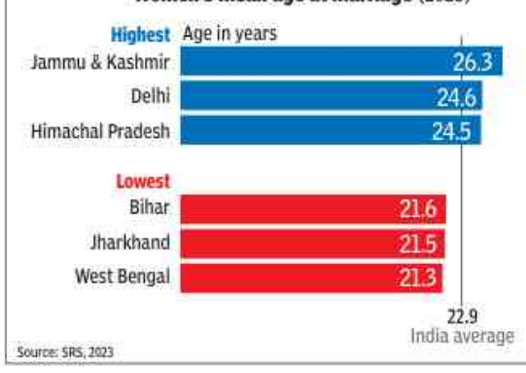
SCAN FOR MORE

Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Where women marry early, and late, in India

In 2023, the average age at which Indian women married was nearly 23 years, but there were variations by region: it was lowest in eastern states with northern states and UTs reporting the highest average age



Source: SRS, 2023

On last day before holiday, schoolgirl hit by hockey ball dies

Marcus.Mergulhao
@timesofindia.com

Rueisha, 13, had taken up hockey two years ago, inspired by her brother who has captained Goa at the sub-junior level

Panaji: On the last day before summer vacation, 13-year-old Class IX student Rueisha Kharsel died after a hockey ball struck her head during training at St Anthony's High School in Goa on Thursday.

She was among the several students preparing for the next academic year's competitions. "They were practising like any normal day. The accident occurred during school hours," school principal Fr Milchester Furtado said.

Rueisha, who took up hockey two years ago inspired by her brother Suraj (15) who captained Goa at the sub-junior national championship last month in Bihar's Rajgir, collapsed after the ball hit her.

She was rushed to a hospital in a private vehicle after the ambulance got delayed. She was declared dead on arrival, cops said. Police have registered a case of unnatural death while her postmortem examination report is awaited. Police said the postmortem report is expected on Friday.

"She always used my hockey stick," said Suraj, left to console his grieving mother at home in Guirim, while other family members were completing the formalities to take over the body at the hospital. "My mother received a call while she was at work. I heard of the death only after she reached home. I was numb. I think there were just about 10 minutes left for the session to end. I don't know how the ball struck her, and I am not even sure if she was conscious when she fell," said Suraj.

At their rented house in Agni wado, Guirim, teammates and teary-eyed friends from school turned up to pay their respects. Rueisha's mother works as a maid, while her father is employed at a local store.

"Sorry, Rueisha, I could not do anything for you," said an inconsolable mother. "Am I a bad mother, Rueisha? Why did you leave me? Please come back. I will allow you to do whatever you want."

To foil Bengal post-poll unrest, EC to retain 70K central forces

Determined Not To Allow Repeat Of 2021, Which Saw 1,934 Cases

Bharti.Jain@timesofindia.com

Security personnel march in Raiganj ahead of Bengal poll results

New Delhi: Even before counting takes place, the Election Commission is preparing for the post-results scenario in West Bengal by retaining around 70,000 central forces personnel in the state for continued vigil, particularly in pockets with a history of post-poll violence, and initiating strict action against any attempts to target political rivals.

As part of security arrangements to prevent a repeat of the 2021 post-poll violence — which, as per the then DGP's report sent to an NHRC inquiry committee, had seen 1,934 incidents including murder, sexual assault, arson and grievous hurt — control rooms are to be set up at the EC's headquarters, Nirvachan Sadan, and the office of the Bengal chief electoral officer to monitor the situation on counting day, May 4, and direct immediate action in case of any untoward incident.

Forces still stationed in Bengal will keep strict vigil in vulnerable pockets that witnessed violence in 2021, and anyone found to be involved in any attempt at violence will face strict action as per law.

As per the 2021 NHRC inquiry report, there was organised, widespread and targeted violence based on political affiliation across multiple districts in the months following counting. The 1,934 incidents of post-poll violence included murder (29), sexual assault (12), grievous hurt (391), arson/vandalism (940) and intimidation (562). Though 9,304 persons were accused, only 1,345 were arrested. The NHRC probe found that FIRs were not registered in 60% of complaints.

In a recent PIL filed in the Supreme Court, a plea was made to direct the constitution of a high-level monitoring committee under a retired judge to oversee the functioning of law and order machinery in Bengal. It further sought that the state government be told to maintain law and order and take necessary steps, including deployment of adequate central forces personnel in vulnerable areas.

Why only central employees as counting supervisors, asks TMC; it is EC's prerogative, rules HC

Kolkata: Calcutta HC on Thursday upheld the EC's authority to appoint Union govt and PSU employees as counting supervisors for Bengal assembly polls, rejecting a Trinamool Congress challenge alleging bias in favour of BJP, report **Srishti Lakhotia & Subrata Chattoraj**.

Justice Krishna Rao ruled that the law permits EC to choose personnel from either state or Union pools, finding no illegality in deploying central staff. "It is the prerogative of the Election Commission of India to appoint counting supervisors from the state or central govt," the court said while dismissing TMC's plea.

The court said allegations of manipulation can be tested after results through an election petition under Section 100 of the Representation of the People Act. Justice Rao said any non-compliance affecting the outcome can render an election void. If counting staff favour a candidate leading to defeat, the aggrieved party has "liberty to challenge the same in an election petition". It also questioned why objections were not first raised before the EC.

EC counsel Dama Seshadri Naidu said similar arrangements were used in other states, including Kerala.

TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee questioned reliance on central personnel, asking if state staff were being disbelieved and alleging discrimination against Bengal. He added that if even one company had been in Pahalgam, the 26 deaths could have been prevented.

Rejecting bias fears, the high court cited multiple oversight layers during counting, including micro observers and agents, saying the allegation was untenable.

Gunfire and streetfights reported from parts of Kol

Dwaipayan Ghosh & Sanjib Chakraborty

Kolkata: After a relatively peaceful day of voting, Kolkata and its northern industrial fringe witnessed incidents of violence with TMC and BJP trading allegations of attacks, firing and reprisals.

In Bhatpara, TMC functionary Tapas Das was shot twice and critically injured late Wednesday. No arrest has been made. Former Jagaddal MLA and TMC candidate Somnath Shyam alleged aides of a BJP MP were involved in the shooting. BJP candidate Rajesh Kumar, a former IPS officer, called the charge false, alleging TMC-backed miscreants are often behind firing and bomb attacks in the belt.

In southwest Kolkata's Behala, police arrested seven people after clashes in Ward 129. TMC functionaries alleged BJP-backed attackers targeted their party workers at a local office.

Former councillor Anjan Das suffered a head wound, while another person was left with a skull fracture. He underwent surgery and his condition is said to be critical.

BJP countered that Trinamool members stormed the home of Prosenjit Brahma around 8pm, alleging both he and his brother Abhijit — said to be associated with RSS — were assaulted.

Elsewhere in south Kolkata, TMC alleged central forces assaulted residents in New Alipore, leaving nine hurt. TMC also alleged that central forces baton-charged its workers near Jodhpur Park Women's Polytechnic, a campus in the adjoining Jadavpur area.

Why critical thinking is the new classroom currency

As AI reshapes learning, **Times Critical Thinking Championship** expands push to build reasoning skills among school students

Meghna.Dhulia
@timesofindia.com

Image: AI

A simple classroom question can open up a far deeper lesson. When a teacher asks why the sky appears blue or whether a viral claim is credible, the exercise goes beyond science; it tests a student's ability to question, verify, and think independently. That capacity, educators say, defines critical thinking — a skill rapidly gaining urgency in an era shaped by artificial intelligence and information overload.

At its core, critical thinking is the ability to question assumptions, examine evidence, and analyse information before forming conclusions. "It is the ability to pause and question before forming an opinion, and to reflect before responding. It goes beyond the mere accumulation of knowledge. Critical thinking involves analysing information, identifying bias, connecting ideas across contexts, and arriving at reasoned, independent judgements. It is not just an academic skill but a life skill," said Divya Bhatia, principal, Amity International School, Saket.

She added, "We are moving towards building stronger critical thinking skills, but we are not entirely there yet. India's education system has made significant progress, particularly with forward-looking reforms such as the National Education Policy 2020, which emphasises inquiry-based and experiential learning. The shift has begun; it now needs consistency and courage."

The emphasis on such skills comes as education policy itself signals a structural shift. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 calls for moving away from rote learning towards inquiry-led, competency-based education — a change aligned with the demands of a technology-driven economy. Yet, educators note that translating this intent into everyday classroom practice remains uneven, with assessment patterns and teaching methods still catching up.

It is in this context that the Times Critical Thinking Championship (TCTC) is returning in 2026 with a sharper focus and expanded scale. Conceived as an initiative by The Times of India, inspired by the Times Foundation, the programme positions itself not merely as a competition but as a structured intervention aimed at embedding critical thinking into school education.

For school students, the skill extends beyond textbook learning. It involves questioning the reliability of information, analysing competing claims, identifying bias, and forming independent judgements. In an ecosystem where digital platforms and AI tools are reshaping how knowledge is created and consumed, these abilities are becoming central to meaningful learning outcomes.

Professor Manabendra Saharia, associate faculty, Yardi School of Artificial Intelligence, IIT Delhi, said: "Critical thinking is the ability to question, evaluate evidence, and not accept things at face value. Today, we have more information than ever, but less patience to examine it. With popular AI tools, it is going to be a challenge for students to develop critical thinking at an early age. The only way to really develop it as an essential skill is to read widely from a young age and be open-minded about opposing ideas in all aspects of life."

The scale of participation reflects growing traction. In its inaugural 2025 edition, the championship saw around 2 lakh students from 5,000 schools across 25 cities. More than 5,000 teachers were also trained in pedagogical approaches that emphasise inquiry, creativity, and problem-solving. The programme builds on the wider outreach of Teach India initiatives, which have demonstrated the feasibility of large-scale classroom interventions.

According to impact catalyst Aruna Goenka, co-chair of the TCTC National Advisory Board, fostering reflective inquiry early can shape long-term outcomes. "It leads to intellectual confidence and grit, contributing to better academic outcomes, enhanced communication abilities, and stronger decision-making in everyday life," she said.

Building on its first edition, TCTC 2026 aims to reach one million students nationwide. The expansion aligns with a broader recognition that in an AI-driven world, knowledge alone is insufficient; the ability to interpret, question, and apply it meaningfully is what will define future readiness.

For educators and organisers, the objective is clear: ensuring that classrooms produce not just informed students, but thinking individuals equipped to navigate complexity.

What Is Critical Thinking?
The ability to question, analyse, and decide using logic and evidence
Think logically | Use facts to form reasoned conclusions
Question information | Ask — is it true, and who is the source?
Verify evidence | Check data, sources, and credibility
Spot bias | Identify when opinions distort facts
Consider multiple views | Weigh different perspectives
Decide rationally | Base choices on logic, not assumptions
Stay adaptable | Revise views when new evidence emerges

What TCTC Will Assess
What the test actually measures
- Fact vs Opinion
- Correlation vs Causation
- Problem Identification
- Assumptions & Inferences
- Argument Evaluation

Who Can Participate
Students from Classes III to XII
TIER I Classes III–V
TIER II Classes VI–VIII
TIER III Classes IX–XII
- The competition will be open pan-India, covering 28 states & 8 UTs

Selection Process
May | Registration opens
May-July | **Round 1** - Written test
June-Aug | **Round 2** - Video interview with Master Trainers
Aug | Final shortlist announced
Sept | National semi-final & National final

How To Apply
Visit **www.toitctc.com** or scan the code to know more and register for the championship

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Stand-off escalates after TMC releases CCTV footage

▶Continued from page 1

The stand-off escalated after TMC released CCTV footage of what it claimed was an intrusion into Khudiram Anushilan Kendra. Ghosh alleged manipulation of postal ballots. Kolkata North district election officer Smita Pandey reached the counting centre with senior Kolkata Police officers and spoke to Ghosh and his colleague Panja, reassuring them that nothing untoward had occurred there. Pandey told them that representatives of the contesting parties had been informed beforehand that segregation of postal ballots would take place at 4pm. Every candidate or their representative was sent an email, she said.

The people seen in the CCTV footage — two men and as many women — were EC-authorised representatives segregating the postal ballots, Smita Pandey said. She also told them that all strongrooms containing polled EVMs were sealed and adequately secured. The officer promised the candidates that additional CCTVs would be installed. Ghosh later said, "We questioned Election Commission officials over ballot boxes being opened in the absence of stakeholders. They assured us that it won't be repeated."

Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee shares a video message ahead of counting on May 4, alleging that exit poll projections were aired at the 'instruction of BJP' to demoralise her party workers, even as she asserted that they would win more than 226 seats in the assembly polls

The arrival of BJP candidates Tapas Ray and Santosh Pathak soon after led to a fresh confrontation. "Trinamool is spreading rumours. If they gather here, we will also stand vigil," Ray said.

BJP and Trinamool workers clashed outside the centre, prompting CAPF and police to step in, physically remove them, and set up a barricade.

DEO Pandey and senior officers then made the rival candidates sit together and explained that all necessary steps would be taken. She insisted that they ask their supporters to disperse. In Bhowanipore, Mamata's presence at the counting centre prompted BJP candidate Suvendu Adhikari's representative, Suryaneel Das, to shout at police officials, questioning why a candidate was present inside for so long. He alleged it was unconstitutional.

Earlier, posting a video on her social media pages, chief minister Mamata said she was prepared to keep vigil through the night, if required. "If I can do it, so can you," she told party candidates. "Don't be negligent. Until I formally address the press, no one should leave the counting table."

EC mandates QR verification at counting halls

New Delhi: The EC has introduced a QR code-based verification system to regulate access of persons to counting halls on May 4, the day of poll results. The system will be extended to all future elections to Lok Sabha and state/UT assemblies.

As part of counting arrangements on May 4, a three-tier security mechanism has been prescribed for verification of identity at counting centres. At first and second tiers, photo ID cards issued by respective returning officers will be checked manually. At the third and innermost security cordon near a counting hall, entry shall be permitted only after successful verification through QR-code scanning.

New QR code-based photo ID cards will be applicable for different categories of persons authorised by the EC to enter counting centres and halls. TNN

MTP row: SC asks AIIMS to share data with parents, respect citizen's choice

▶Continued from page 1

The bench said it would not entertain the curative petition by AIIMS, which also failed to persuade another bench, led by Justice B V Nagarathna, to review its decision for MTP.

Bhati argued that in case of a normal delivery, "identity of the girl and the baby would be kept confidential". She added, "this foeticide will be harmful both to mother and baby".

Bhati's attempt to persist with persuasion a drew sharp reaction from Justice Bagchi, who said, "Give respect to the citizen's choice. Go back. Share your data and let them choose. If they choose to preserve a life, which we understand is at an advanced stage, so be it. If they choose that the ignominy and pain, which includes mental health, is to be cured by termination of the pregnancy, so be it. Please don't press your curative petition. If at all a curative is to be filed, it should be by the parents, not AIIMS."

Expressing irritation that the doctors had taken upon themselves to decide what will be the best course, Justice Bagchi said, "What is your 'parens patriae' approach? Your 'parens patriae' approach now is 'I will choose for my citizens, rather than have an informed choice from the citizens." Parens patriae refers to the state or a court having a paternal and protective role over its citizens.

"Medical personnel, because of their specialised knowledge, cannot become masters of the will of people. The people will decide. Doctors can't decide for patients...We will not allow the institution to choose for the parents," he said.

When Bhati attempted to explain the medical complications, Justice Bagchi said, "Let us not make it a fight between state and citizen. You are portraying it as such. Go back and counsel the parents about the intricacies involved in the exercise and the harm that could entail to the 15-year-old and tell them to make an informed choice."

Top court issues notice to AIIMS, Union health secy

AmitAnand.Choudhar @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Issuing notice to AIIMS-Delhi and the Union health secretary on a contempt plea for not complying with its order for medical termination of pregnancy of a 15-year-old girl, Supreme Court on Thursday made it clear that the country's premier hospital and the senior govt functionary could be in more trouble if they continue to defy its order.

The bench also questioned AIIMS for seeking review of the court's April 24 verdict instead of implementing it. The contempt plea, filed by the girl's mother, alleged that the authority concerned had failed to implement the SC order in the last six days. She submitted that the pregnancy case was getting complicated with each passing day and urged for the court's intervention.

Agreeing to hear her plea, the bench issued notice to the alleged contemnors and posted the case for hearing to Monday. "What is the agenda of AIIMS behind filing review petitions and sitting on the court's judgment?" the bench asked.

After 24 weeks, it's not MTP, but preterm delivery, insist docs

New Delhi: Doctors at AIIMS continued to express medical and ethical concerns over pregnancies being terminated beyond 24 weeks, saying such procedures are no longer "termination of pregnancy" in conventional sense but amount to medically induced preterm delivery, **reports Anuja Jaiswal**.

On a day Supreme Court issued notice to AIIMS and Union health secretary over a contempt petition filed by mother of a 15-year-old girl alleging non-compliance with its order permitting termination of pregnancy, the hospital explained its stand as one driven only by concern for the pregnant minor and the baby she is carrying. "We follow 'delay, not deny' approach — rooted in the scientifically proven fact that a short window can help the body prepare for delivery and improve outcomes for both mother and child — rather than attempting immediate late-stage termination," a senior gynaecologist said.

At the centre of debate is Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021, which allows termination up to 20 weeks, and up to 24 weeks for specific categories such as minors and survivors of sexual assault.

Beyond 24 weeks, termination is permitted only in cases of substantial fetal abnormalities.

POLL VAULT

I-PAC director gets bail in PMLA case

A Delhi court on Thursday granted bail to Vinesh Chandel, director and co-founder of political consultancy firm I-PAC,

in a money laundering case linked to alleged coal smuggling in Bengal, after ED chose not to oppose his plea, citing his "voluntary" cooperation in the probe. It imposed conditions, directing that Chandel shall not leave India without permission, must share his contact details, remain accessible, cooperate with the probe, and refrain from tampering with evidence or influencing witnesses.

IUML backs VD Satheesan as potential Kerala CM

IUML has backed opposition's V D Satheesan as a potential chief ministerial candidate in wake of opinion polls projecting a victory for UDF in Kerala. Party's state chief Panakkad Sadikali Shihab Thangal said people appeared to have expressed their opinion in favour of Satheesan. On whether UDF would factor in this public sentiment, he said, "It is for the high command to take a call."

Will take a call on repoll demand after review: EC

The Election Commission is reviewing reports before taking a call on demands for repolls in 77 booths across four assembly seats of Bengal's South 24 Parganas over allegations of irregularities, CEO Manoj Agarwal announced on Thursday.

Today's Chanakya predicts big win for BJP in Bengal

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Today's Chanakya on Thursday predicted a big win for BJP in West Bengal, while News18, in its exit poll, has forecast a tight contest with an edge to BJP. In Tamil Nadu, Today's Chanakya gave a majority to DMK and its allies, where actor Vijay-led TVK has emerged as an X factor that may push the AIADMK-BJP combine to the third position.

While most exit polls have given BJP an edge in Bengal, Today's Chanakya has forecast a massive lead for the party by giving it 48% of the votes compared to the governing TMC's 38% with a margin of 3% for both parties on either side. It will translate into 192 (plus or minus 11) seats for BJP and 100 (plus or minus 11) for TMC in the 294-member assembly, it has said.

News18 has predicted 143-163 seats for BJP and 127-147 for TMC, with the two parties tipped to get 44% and 43% of the votes, respectively. In TN, Today's Chanakya said DMK's alliance could get 125 seats and TVK 63 in the assembly. It has given an edge to UDF in Kerala and predicted a landslide win for BJP in Assam, forecasts which are in line with the general direction of other polls.

Axis My India, another pollster, decided not to release its forecast for Bengal due to an "exceptionally high non-response rate", with around 70% of approached voters declining to participate in the survey.

ISC: Lucknow's 'Helen Keller' scores 98.7%

Mohita.Tewari@timesofindia.com

Lucknow: Before every exam, Sarah Moin's mother would help her revise lessons by drawing alphabets on her palm with a finger. **Sarah** would string those letters into words, and the words into sentences, to understand the questions asked of her.

The teenager can't see, hear or speak. But her ISC Class XII marksheet articulates her academic prowess – an aggregate of 98.7%, with full marks in geography and mass media & communication, 98 in English, 97 in history and 96 in psychology.

Sarah, fondly called "Helen Keller" by her teachers and batchmates, topped the humanities class at Lucknow's Christ Church College despite living with sarcoidosis, a rare childhood condition that destroyed her hearing and speech. She had been born blind but had some hearing until Class 3. When the disease took its toll, Sarah's previous school insisted that her parents admit her to a special institution. They consulted several medical specialists in South India but nothing worked. "Our daughter lost two academic years as we travelled frequently in the hope of finding a cure," her father Moin Ahmad Idrisi said.

Moin Idrisi and his wife were determined not to enrol Sarah in a special school. He took voluntary retirement from his govt job to guide and support her. The breakthrough came when Christ Church College principal Rakesh Chattree put her in the institute's section for students with special needs.

ICSE & ISC results out: Girls lead, pass rates above 99%

Meghna.Dhulia@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: CISCE announced the results of ICSE (Class X) and ISC (Class XII) 2026 examinations Thursday. The ISC exam recorded an overall pass percentage of 99.1%, with girls securing 99.5% and boys 98.8%; the ICSE exam recorded an overall pass percentage of 99.2%, with girls achieving 99.5% pass rate and boys 98.9%.

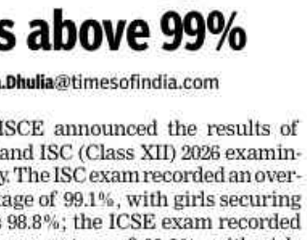
Officials said the marginal difference in performance highlighted a narrowing gender gap, indicating more balanced academic outcomes. "Each learner's journey is unique. These results mark an important step in their continued pursuit of excellence," CISCE chief executive and secretary Joseph Emmanuel said.

As many as 3.6 lakh students from across India and abroad appeared for the exams. The ISC exam saw participation of 1,03,316 candidates — 54,118 boys (52.4%) and 49,198 girls (47.6%). The ICSE exam saw 2,58,721 candidates appearing — 1,37,503 boys (53.2%) and 1,21,218 girls (46.9%).

The northern region recorded the highest participation in both exams. In ISC, the southern region emerged as the top performer with a pass percentage of 99.9%, followed by the Western region at 99.6%. In ICSE, the western region led with 99.9% followed by the southern region at 99.8%. In ISC, 5,835 SC candidates achieved a pass percentage of 98.8%, and 3,786 ST candidates recorded 98.8%. In ICSE, 17,536 SC candidates appeared, achieving a pass percentage of 98.8%, while 9,466 ST candidates recorded a pass percentage of 98.1%.

Identical twins script identical success, emerge J'khand school toppers

Vishvendu Jaipuriar | TNN



Drishti (left) and Srishti Kumari

Hazaribag: When it comes to identical twins, we usually expect matching features and shared smiles. But for Srishti and Drishti Kumari, the term "identical" has taken on a mathematical precision. They don't just look the same — the 16-year-old sisters have emerged as the joint toppers of Carmel School in the city, securing an identical score of 97.6% in ICSE Class X board exams.

Daughters of doctor parents, Mohanlal and Rashmi Prasad, the sisters also secured the same score in English and Hindi — 97. "Even we were so surprised that we checked our marks multiple times, calculated the total and percentage repeatedly, and only then got convinced about the same percentage," the sisters said, still in awe. Their parents, whom the sisters say are involved in their studies despite their busy schedules, are also elated. "While we expected good results, we never imagined that both would score more or less identical marks in all subjects," said their mother, Rashmi Prasad, a gynaecologist. Their father, Mohanlal, said though they are busy throughout the week, Sunday is earmarked for the kids.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Divya Hari Krishnan, daughter of M Hari Krishnan, residing at 12, 2nd Cross, Chiranjeevi Layout, Hebbal, Kempapura, Bangalore 560024. I have changed my name to Divya Hari for all purposes vide affidavit dt. 17.03.2026 sworn before Notary Ravikumar V, Bangalore

I Syed Yousuff Syed Rasool sab aged 64 years , R/o No. A/2, Koppa Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 105 have changed my name Syed Yousuff vide Affidavit dated 29/4/2026 Henceforth, I shall be known Syed Yousuff for all Purposes Notary Muniswamy T Bangalore

I Harish Krishnaiah S/O, Krishnaiaha R/o Door No 6, Krishna Residency, Gf, 1st Cross, 1st Main, Bharathi Layout, Sg Palya, Bangalore 560029 have changed my name to Harishh Krishnaiaha.

AFFIDAVIT Notice: Pralhad Vital Rao Deshpande, declare that Pralhad V Deshpande and Pralhad Vital Rao Deshpande are one and the same person. vide affidavit dated: 10/4/2026 sworn before notary H.R Karunakar, Bangalore.

I Riney Joy wife of Ambhareeson U, residing at L 906, Brigade Metropolis, Garudacharpalya , Mahdevapura, Bangalore 560038 have changed my name to Riney Joy and shall hereafter be known as Riney Joy for all purposes.

I, Merlyn Vanessa Menezes, residing at 2nd Floor, 75, Sri Basaveshwara Nilaya, Thirumalashettihalli Cross, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru - 560 067, have changed my name to Merlyn Vanessa D'souza vide affidavit dated 29th April, 2026 sworn before Veena J., Notary, Bengaluru City

I, Deepika Rajeshkumar Singh W/o Kaushik Nandan R/o 2A-402, Arcadia Apartments, Chikkabellandur, Bangalore - 560035. I have changed my name from Deepika Singh to Deepika Rajeshkumar Singh vide sworn before notary B M Chandrashekar, Bangalore dated 30.04.2026

WE, Harish.H & Sudharani. N R/a #5, 4th cross, Rajeshwari nagar, Laggere, Near D.M. Public School, Bengaluru - 58 have changed our minor Son's Name from LOHITH. H to CHETAN. H (DOB: 15.2.2013) vide affidavit dated: 24.4.2026 Done Notary.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Hemavathi Srinivasa Murthy, r/at No. 8/38, Poornatrupti, 10th Main, 2nd Cross, Adarsha Layout, Mallathahalli, Bangalore 560056 have changed my name to Hema S Murthy for all purposes vide affidavit dt. 24.04.2026 sworn before Notary M K Devaki, Bangalore.

I, Rajnesh Kant S/O Ganga Dutt R/o-21/125,4th main Somsundrapalya HSR layout 2nd sector Bangalore have changed my minor daughter's name DIVYANSHI to DIVYANSHI VATS.

I, Manashwi , R/o F-804, Shriram Greenfield, Bommenahalli, Bidarahalli Hobli, Mandur Post,Bangalore : 560049 have changed my name to Manashwi Sharma. Affidavit date : 30/04/2026

R. Praba D/o Rajendran, R/o H. No 607, Brindavanam, BHEL layout, 2nd stage, rajarajeshwari nagar, Bengaluru have changed my name as S. Prabha W/o R. Shivaraj.

LOST & FOUND

WE K.Ramakrishna Rao and K.R. Kamala Rao (Wife) residing at Brindavan 1-6 Palace Road, B'lore-01 Hereby declare that our son Kadandale Ishwara Rao (Minor 17 yrs) lost his 10th Marks. Name-KADANDALE ISHWARA RAO, Unique ID-8577150, Date of Birt 14/09/2008, School name-St.Joseph's Boys High School B'lore. We kindly requesting to re-issue our son's second copy 10th Marks card. Hence this affidavit sworn before notary S.R.Paramashivaiah dt 25/04/2026

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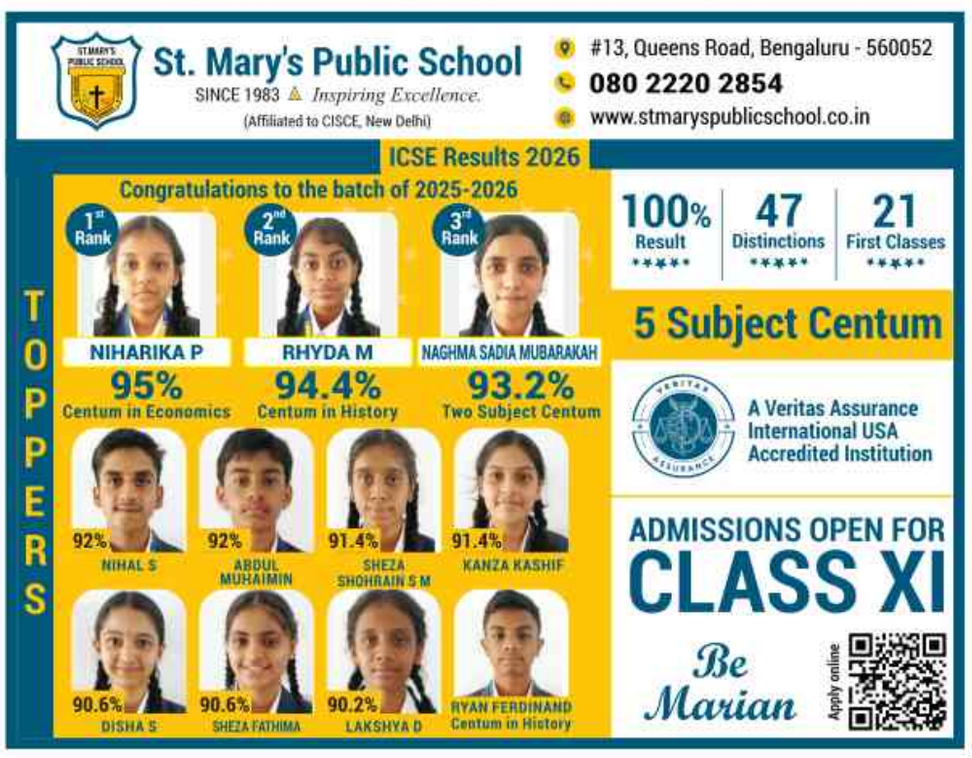

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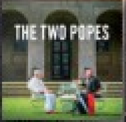
When cinema reflected an uneasy relationship

Becket (1964)

A Man for All Seasons (1966)

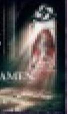
The papacy under pressure



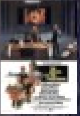
The Two Popes (2019)

The Church as a conscience keeper

Amen (2002)

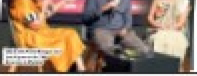


The Shoes of the Fisherman (1968)



Trump vs Pope Leo XIV: A brief timeline

I didn't take the complaint seriously because I hadn't plagiarised: Sujoy Ghosh



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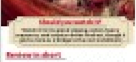
A star-studded spectacle that ends with a cliffhanger

KD: THE DEVIL



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OFF ON EXCHANGE OF OLD TELEVISION, HOME APPLIANCES, LAPTOP & MOBILES*

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EMI ₹2,666 MRP ₹89,990

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STORE LOCATOR

*Terms & conditions apply. Finance at the sole discretion of the Finance company. Upto 20% Cashback & 1 EMI off on selected brands and models. Upto Rs.15000 Bajaj cash back / vouchers valid only in selected cities. Cash Back / vouchers will be credited to the customer bank account / BFL wallet after clearing 3 EMI. EMI offers the above products based on 12,18,24 & fixed emi schemes .*Exchange offer valid on MRP and Product as to be in good working condition.Exchange value will differ based on the condition of the old product.Free Installation on AC's is valid on selected brands & models.Free holiday package valid on 25000 & above purchase only.

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कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा

क्रमांक – 259 संशोधित निविदा संख्या–49–/2025–26 दिनांक 24.04.2026

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 4126 दिनांक 04.03.2026 के द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा सूचना संख्या–49/2025–26 एवं संशोधित पत्र क्रमांक 118 दिनांक 13.04.2026 में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है।

क्र. सं.	विवरण	पूर्व में	अब यह पढ़ा जावें
1	निविदा फार्म मिलने एवं जमा कराने की तारीख	16.03.2026 से 29.04.2026 सांय 6:00 बजे	16.03.2026 से 13.05.2026 सांय 6:00 बजे
2	ऑन लाईन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख	01.05.2026 अपरान्ह 3:00 बजे	15.05.2026 अपरान्ह: 3:00 बजे
3	बोली प्रतिभूति जमा कराने की तारीख	30.04.2026 सांय 4:00 बजे	14.05.2026 सांय 4:00 बजे

निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
UBN No. PWD2526WLOB24965
DIPR/C/7438/2026

Sd/-
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office:- PSEB H.O. Building, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in Contact No. 96461-22955, 96461-18773

TENDER ENQUIRY No.: QQ- 2379/PO-P

Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd floor, Multistory Building, The Mall, Patiala, invites E-Tender for Procurement of 3-Phase, 11KV, 400 Amp, Single Throw, Single Break GO switches as per IS/IEC 62271 Series for High-voltage switchgear and control gear & as per PSPCL specification no. QQ-2379/PSPCL/PO-P. For detailed NIT & tender specification, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 30.04.2026 onwards.

NOTE: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C-547/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/11075

KARNATAKA VIDYUTH KARKHANE LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
P. B. No. 2610, Mysore Road, Bengaluru-560 026
Ph: 26749045, 26987200, 26748274

KAVIKA/DGM-II/2026-27 Date: 30.04.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders through e-Procurement Portal mode are invited for **(1)** 25KVA Star-1 CRGO Based Core Assembly-**4000 Nos.** **(2)** 25KVA Star-1 Tank Assembly-**4000 Nos.** **(3)** Transformer Oil- **800 KL** **(4)** Bushings LV-1.1 KV/250 Amps-**16000 Sets,** Bushings HV-17.5 KV/250 Amps-**18000 Sets.** **(5)** OLG Plate with Acrylic Glass-150mm-**10500 Nos.** **(6)** Stainless Steel Unique ID Plates - **8900 Nos.** **(7)** Aluminium Rating & Diagram Plates-**8300 Nos.** **(8)** Silicagel Breather 250 Grams-**9800 Nos.**

The detailed notification / specification can be obtained by logging on to e-Procurement website:**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 30.04.2026** as well as the process of participation/EMD/Tender fees etc.

Sd/- Deputy General Manager-II

AN ISO 9001:2015 Company - Manufacturers of Star-rated Transformers

1001/30/2627

The Odisha Small Industries Corporation Ltd.

(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
(An ISO:9001:2008 certified Govt. Company)
Industrial Estate, Madhupatna, CUTTACK - 753 010, Odisha
Tel No. : 0671-2341204, 2342816; Fax : 0671-2341875/2342561
e-mail : osicltd@gmail.com, osicltd@rediffmail.com ; website : osicltd.in

SHORT NOTICE INVITING WILLINGNESS

Ref no: OSIC/RE Cell/926 Dt.: 28.04.2026

e-Procurement Notice for procurement of laboratory equipments Identification No. OSIC/RE Cell/2026-2027/008

Name of the work: Establishment of Laboratory for Solvent Extraction Plant (Rice Bran) at Common Facility Centre (CFC) in Rice Milling Cluster at IIDC, Somnathpur, Balasore, Odisha.

1) Total No of work : One
2) Tender paper Cost : Rs. 6,000/- + GST 18% = Rs. 7080/-
3) Period of completion : Two (2) calendar months
4) EMD Cost : Rs. 1,10,000/-
5) ISD Cost : 5% of the agreement value
6) Other details :

Procurement online	Bid Identification No	Availability of tender on-line for bidding		Date & time of opening of Tender in O/o MD OSIC Ltd., Cuttack
		From	To	
MD, OSIC Ltd., Cuttack	008 of 2026-27	30.04.2026 at 5:00 PM	20.05.2026 upto 5:00 PM	21.05.2026 at 3:30 PM

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in / www.oxicltd.in.** Any amendment corrigendum, cancellation or re-tender may please be referred to the website.

Sd/-
Dy. General Manager (I/C)
Constn./RE
OSIC Ltd., Cuttack

OIPR-1001/1450/1/26-27/0004

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI TIRUPATI DIST., A.P.

Office of the chief Engineer **TENDER NOTICE**

ADV No.05/D3/CE/TTD/2026-27 & NIT No.71 to 72/SE-II/TTD/2026-27 dt:29-04-2026

Name of work:1) Providing Permanent shelter & Queue lines with Toilets for SSD (Slotted Sarva Darshan) waiting pilgrims at west side of Alwar tank area at Tirumala. **Amount:800.00 Lakhs, Mixed Tender Type, Time for Completion:6months.** 2) Processing and disposal of the Legacy Mixed Municipal Solid Waste of more than 25 years near Kakulamanutippa, Tirumala through Bio-remediation & Bio-mining as in where is basis. **Open Tender Type, Time for Completion 12 months. Note: For full details, log on to the Website https:// www.tirumala.org.**

TTD-40021(31)/1/2026 - PRO SEC (Adv. No 35). Date - 30.04.2026 **Executive Officer**

Zilla Panchayat Office, Shivamogga

Post Box No.: 127, Kuvempu Road, Shivamogga – 577 201
No.: ZP/S/ADM/C6/E-49169/COM/2023-24

Date: 27.04.2026

e-Procurement Tender Notification

e-Tender is invited through e-portal from interested, eligible Firms for supply of computer and UPS for the information centres of Gram Panchats in the limits of Shivamogga Zilla Panchayat . Last date for submission of Tender is 12.05.2026 up to 5.30 PM and date of opening the Tender is 14.05.2026 at 11.00 AM. Approx. amount put to Tender: Rs. 49,00,000/-. EMD amount is fixed as: 98,000/-. Interested Tenderers should upload in website: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and Tender Document and information is available on this website.

For further information contact 08182- 267224.

Sd/- Deputy Secretary (Admin) Zilla Panchayat, Shivamogga

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/142/04/152

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division,Hassan

IFT No.02/2026.27, Dated: 28.04.2026

Tenders are invited from eligible Agencies in two cover system through KPPP portal of GOK (website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for Hassan District works as per KW-2 & 3 maximum tender amount is Rs.64.53 lakhs & minimum tender amount is Rs.40.29 lakhs. The last date of receipt of tender is 12-05-2026 upto 5.00 PM hours. Further detail can be had from KPP-portal and the above office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/78/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-1/TENDER/2026-27/523 DATE: 28/04/2026

Short term E-Re-Tender Notification (Call-2)

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise Short term e-Re-Tenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 1 work under head of account 4059-CMIDP, Amount put to tender is Rs. 160.00 Lakhs.

Calendar of events:1)Pre-bid meeting date:05-05-2026 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2)Last date for queries & clarifications : 06-05-2026 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 08-05-2026 up to 5.00 PM, 4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 11-05-2026 at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids", 6)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-176/KSMCA/2026-27

उत्तराखण्ड जल प्रबन्धन एवं नियामक (संशोधन) अधिनियम–2016 (उत्तराखण्ड अधिनियम संख्या–24 वर्श 2013) के अधीन उत्तराखण्ड जल संसाधन प्रबन्धन और नियामक आयोग के अध्यक्ष की नियुक्ति हेतु विज्ञापन।

उत्तराखण्ड जल प्रबन्धन एवं नियामक अधिनियम–2013, दिनांक 01.09.2015 से लागू/प्रवृत्त है। उक्त मूल अधिनियम का संशोधन यथा उत्तराखण्ड जल प्रबन्धन एवं नियामक (संशोधन अधिनियम–2016) दिनांक 31.03.2016 से प्रभावी है। उत्तराखण्ड जल संसाधान प्रबन्धन एवं नियामक आयोग की स्थापना दिनांक 08 जुलाई, 2016 से की गयी है।

उक्त अधिनियम में उत्तराखण्ड सरकार द्वारा राज्य के भीतर जल संसाधन को विनियमित करने, विवेकपूर्ण और पोशणीय प्रबन्धन, पर्यावरण एवं आर्थिक दृष्टि से पोशणीय राज्य के विकास हेतु जल संसाधन के आवंटन और अनुकूलतम उपयोग को सुगम बनाने एवं सुनिश्चित करने, कृषि, आद्योगिक, पेय, विद्युत और अन्य प्रयोजन के लिए राज्य जल नीति के अनुसार उपयुक्त नियामक उपकरणों के माध्यम से जल उपयोग हेतु प्रभार अवधारित करने एवं लाभान्वित भू–स्वामियों के बाढ़ रक्षा एवं जल निकास सकर्म द्वारा लाभान्वित भूमि पर उपकर की दर निर्धारण करने के लिए उत्तराखण्ड जल संसाधन प्रबन्धन और नियामक आयोग की स्थापना का प्राविधान है। यही आयोग "उत्तराखण्ड विद्युत उत्पादन पर जलकर (संशोधन अधिनियम, 2016 की धारा 26(1) में उल्लिखित कार्यों का भी निश्पादन करेगा।

उत्तराखण्ड सरकार उत्तराखण्ड जल प्रबन्धन एवं नियामक संशोधन अधिनियम–2016 की धारा 3(4) के अन्तर्गत प्रस्तर–4 में दिये गये विवरण के अनुसार अध्यक्ष की नियुक्ति करना चाहती है। उत्तराखण्ड सरकार द्वारा उत्तराखण्ड जल प्रबन्धन एवं नियामक (संशोधन) अधिनियम 2016 की धारा– 6 की उपधारा 1 के अधीन एक चयन समिति का गठन किया गया है। प्रमुख सचिव/सचिव, सिंचाई विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड भाशन के द्वारा चयन समिति की तरफ से अध्यक्ष के पद पर नियुक्ति हेतु प्रार्थना पत्र आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं।

2– अध्यक्ष हेतु अर्हता निम्नानुसार होगी :–

ऐसे व्यक्ति को अध्यक्ष के पद पर नियुक्ति के लिए विचार किया जायेगा, जो निम्नलिखित पात्रता रखते हों–

क्र0सं0	पद नाम	पदों की संख्या	अर्हता
1	अध्यक्ष	एक	अध्यक्ष ऐसा व्यक्ति होगा, जिसके पास न्यूनतम 25 वर्ष के प्रशासनिक अनुभव के साथ किसी मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय/संस्थान की स्नातक उपाधि हो और उसने राज्य सरकार के मुख्य सचिव या भारत सरकार के सचिव का पद या उसके समकक्ष कोई पद अवश्य धारण किया हो और जल संसाधन से सम्बन्धित विभागों का अनुभव रखता हो।

2.1 अध्यक्ष सत्तर वर्श की आयु प्राप्त कर लेने के पश्चात पद धारण नहीं करेगा/करेगी।
2.2 वह अपने कार्यकाल के दौरान कोई अन्य पद धारित नही करेगा/करेगी।
2.3 अध्यक्ष की पदावधि उत्तराखण्ड जल प्रबन्धन और नियामक अधिनियम 2013 की धारा–7 के अनुसार रहेगी।
3– उपरोक्त के क्रम में पूर्ण आवेदन पत्र प्रमुख सचिव/सचिव, सिंचाई उत्तराखण्ड सरकार पदेन सदस्य सचिव, चयन समिति, उत्तराखण्ड जल संसाधन प्रबन्धन एवं नियामक आयोग के नाम संबोधित किया जायेगा।
3.1 आवेदन पत्र में निम्नलिखित सूचना एवं संगत अभिलेख संलग्न कर प्रेशित करने होंगे–
1) नाम
2) जन्म तिथि, जन्म स्थान और अधिनियम प्रवृत्त होने की तिथि को आयु।
3) वर्तमान में धारित पद या सेवानिवृत्ति से पूर्व धारित पद या अन्य विवरण।
4) शैक्षिक योग्यता।
5) अनुभव का विवरण।
6) पूर्व में धारित पदों का पदावधि सहित विवरण।
7) अनुशासनिक कार्यवाही/सतर्कता जांच/अभियोजन यदि कोई हो तो उसका विवरण।
8) ऐसा कोई व्यक्ति जिसके अध्यक्ष के रूप में चयन के लिए विचार किया जाये, चयन समिति को निम्नलिखित के सम्बन्ध में अनिवार्य रूप से सूचित करेगा–
(क) निम्नलिखित में से किसी व्यवसाय को कर रहे किसी कार्यालय, नियोजन या परामर्शदात्री अनुबन्ध या व्यवस्था का जो उस व्यक्ति या उसके नातेदार के नाम से हो या उनमें से किसी के स्वामित्व में या अन्यथा नियंत्रण में किसी फर्म, व्यक्तियों के संघ या निगमित निकाय के नाम/माध्यम से करता हो :–
(एक) भू–जल अपयोजन, जल वितरण, भू–जल का निकाला जाना या जल सम्भरण।
(दो) जल उद्योग से सम्बन्धित मशीनरी, संयन्त्र, उपस्कर, उपकरण या उनका संव्यवहार।
(तीन) उपर्युक्त खण्ड (एक) और (दो) में निर्दिश्ट किसी कारोबार के लिए कोई व्यावसायिक सेवायें उपलब्ध कराने वाली कोई इकाई।
(ख) ऐसे अन्य विवरण और सूचना जैसा कि चयन समिति द्वारा विहित किया जाय।
(ग) पत्र व्यवहार का पता/दूरभाश संख्या/मोबाईल नं0/ई–मेल इत्यादि।
3.2 यदि अध्यक्ष के रूप में नियुक्त किये जाने वाला कोई व्यक्ति राज्य या केन्द्र सरकार या किसी सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के निगम या किसी सरकारी निकाय के अधीन कोई पद धारण करता है, या वह किसी अन्य व्यक्ति, सरकारी, प्राधिकरणों, सार्वजनिक या निजी क्षेत्र या अन्यथा द्वारा लाभपूर्वक सेवा में नियोजित किया गया या लगाया गया हो तो वह प्राधिकरण में कार्यभार ग्रहण करने के पूर्व उस सेवा से अपना त्याग पत्र प्रस्तुत कर देगा या स्वैच्छिक सेवानिवृत्ति प्राप्त कर लेगा।
3.3 किसी कार्यालय नियोजन या परामर्शदात्री अनुबन्ध या व्यवस्था जो सतही जल अपयोजन, जल वितरण, भू–जल का निकाला जाना या सम्भरण जल उद्योग से सम्बन्धित मशीनरी, संयंत्र, उपस्कर, उपकरण या साज–सज्जों का विनिर्माण, विक्रय, पट्टा, भाड़ा या उनकी आपूर्ति या उनका संव्यवहार आदि जो उसके या उसके किसी नातेदार के नाम से हो या उनमें से किसी के स्वामित्व में या किसी फर्म के नियंत्रण में हो का विस्तृत विवरण पत्र द्वारा देना होगा।
4– कोई सूचना या तथ्य ना छिपाये जाने की घोषणा–

उपरोक्त निर्दिष्ट विस्तृत विवरण एवं बायोडाटा के साथ प्रमुख सचिव, सिंचाई, उत्तराखण्ड भाशन को सम्बोधित आवेदन–पत्र पंजीकृत स्पीड पोस्ट द्वारा प्रमुख सचिव/सचिव, सिंचाई एवं बाढ़ प्रबन्धन विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड शासन, 4 सुभाष रोड, देहरादून–248001 अथवा ई–मेल pssecretary76@gmail.com पर दिनांक 15 मई, 2026 को सांय 6.00 बजे तक प्राप्त हो जाने चाहिए। निर्धारित तिथि के उपरान्त प्राप्त होने वाल आवेदन–पत्रों पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।

नोट :– उत्तराखण्ड जल संसाधन प्रबन्धन एवं नियामक आयोग में अध्यक्ष पद हेतु पूर्व में दिनांक 28.02.2026 को प्रकाशित विज्ञप्ति के सापेक्ष जिन आवेदकों द्वारा आवेदन किया जा चुका है, उन्हें पुनः आवेदन करने की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी।

सुभाश चन्द्र
प्रमुख अभियन्ता
सिंचाई विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड, देहरादून।

Government of Rajasthan
Office of the Chairman,

PCPNDT Counseling Board-2025
SMS Medical College, JLN Marg Jaipur 302004
https://rajpgneet2025.in

No. State PG Counseling Board / 2025/ 3675 Dated: 30.04.2026

NOTIFICATION

6 Months Ultra-sound Course under PCPNDT Rules 2014 (State of Rajasthan)

The allotment procedure for eligible candidates for 6 Months Ultra-sound course under PCPNDT Rules 2014 in Government Medical Colleges will start from 1.5.2026 as per the detailed notification available at the website https://rajpgneet2025.in.

Sd/-
Chairman
M.PCPNDT Counseling Board 2025

DIPR/7679/C/2026

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact Number 96461 47777)

TENDER ENQUIRY No TSQ-1183/PSPCL/TD-I

Dy. CE/TL(Design), B-1 Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for carrying out survey, design, fabrication, supply, laying of foundation, erection & commissioning of 66 KV Monopole line on Turnkey basis as per detailed scope mentioned in Part-6 of tender specification no. TSQ-1183 for the following work:

Package-A: **Replacement of existing tower no. 33 (D-60 type) of the 66KV line to 66KV S/S Baltana, T-Off from 66KV S/S Mubarikpur - 66KV S/S Dhakoli line.**

Package-B: **Construction of 1 no. cable termination monopole under the existing 66KV line from 220KV S/S Phase-7 Mohali to 66KV S/S Ranbaxy for the new 66KV line to Verka Milk Plant Mohali for extension of load.**

Package-C: **Construction of 1 no. cable termination monopole under the existing 66KV monopole line from 220KV S/S Ladhowal to 66KV S/S GT Road, Ludhiana for the new 66KV line to new 66KV S/S Dana mandi, Ludhiana.**

For detailed NIT and Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 04.05.2026 from 11.00 AM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.

C-551/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/11094

SABARMATI RIVER FRONT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD (SRFDCL)

SRFDCL

Office: 2nd Floor, Riverfront House,
behind H K Arts College, Pramukh Swami Maharaj Road
(Riverfront-West), Ahmedabad -380009 Tel: +91-79-26580430
Fax: +91-79-26596003 websites: www.sabarmatiriverfront.com

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Consultancy services for Planning, Desisn and Development of Sky Walk at Biodiversity Park, Sabarmati Riverfront

SRFDCL invites Expression of Interest from the reputed, well-experienced Consultants for the ***Consultancy services for Planning, Desisn and Development of Sky Walk at Biodiversity Park, Sabarmati Riverfront*** Bid document is available on web sites : **https://amc.nprocure.com** and **https://www.sabarmatiriverfront.com** Interested consulting firms having good experience are requested to submit their EOI up to **16.00 Hrs, 29.05.2026** offline at the above mentioned address in two copies i.e. Original & Duplicate along with their financial bid in sealed cover. The prebid Meetng will be arranged on **12.05.2026**. Technical bids will be opened on **11.00 Hrs. on 30.05.2026** in the office of SRFDCL.

Dt. 01.05.2026 **SRFDCL**

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
office of the Executive Engineer, Hemavathi canal Division, Tumkur.

KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL SHORT TERM-TENDER NOTIFICATION No: 02/2026-27 Dt: 29.04.2026 (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer, CNNL, Hemavathi Canal Division, Tumakuru undersigned invites 29 number of tenders Costig from Rs. 3.00 Lakhs to Rs. 62..00 Lakhs on Item Rate Basis using standard conditions KTPP Through KPPP Portal using Two cover system from eligible Contractors.

1. The contractor can have access to Electronic Bid documents-I,II, & III in Karnataka Public procurement Portal from Dated:- 04.05.2026 to 13.05.2026 up to 4.00 pm. 2. Last date & Time for Queries in Karnataka Public procurement Portal Dt:- 06.05.2026 till 4.00 Pm. 3. Electronic Bid Document-1(Technical Bid) will be opened in Karnataka Public portal on 14.05.2026 at 4.30 pm. Onwards. 4. Electronic Bid Document-2 (Financial bid) of qualified Technical bidders will be opened in Karnataka Public Procurement portal on Dt: 16.05.2026 at 4.30 pm onwards or any other convenient date, after the approval of Electronic Bid Document-1 (Technical Bid)

For EMD details, work details, eligible class of contractor, qualification conditions & any other conditions can be obtained in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Hemavathi Canal Division, CNNL,Tumkur.

DIPR/TUM/47/KSMCA/2026-27

RAIL COACH FACTORY KAPURTHALA

On-line bids are invited by PCMM/RCF on behalf of President of India for the following item(s):-

Sr.No.	Tender No. & Due Date	Brief Description	Qty.(Nos/Sets)	EMD(₹)
1.	05251683A/25.05.2026	Set of Carline Assly (PL No. 31985725)	42 Set	75600/-
2.	12251136B/25.05.2026	Water Tank (2x685 Litre) Complete with Level Indicator Size 2 Inch (PI No. 33551194)	489 Set	9,38,120/-
3.	14261024/15.05.2026	Fire Extinguisher with Anti-Theft Arrangement	7391.00 Numbers	2,09,380/-
4.	05261230/06.05.2026	Set of Final Roof Element For AC 3 Tier Amrit Bharat 3.0 with Flat Roof Coaches (PL No. 33541759)	54 Set	1,90,350/-
5.	(1) 04261024/25.05.2026	SS Conduit	30000 Mtr.	96,060/-
	(2) 02251676A/22.05.2026	Fire Barrier Sealant	5878 Nos.	2,56,630/-
	(3) 02261129/22.05.2026	Tray Arrangement	48 Set	1,13,280/-
6.	04261019/25.05.2026	Austenitic Steel Sheet	14976 Kgs.	1,29,000/-
7.	01261087/26.05.2026 Time : 14:30 Hrs.	(1) Fully Assembled Improved Bogies Compatible with IR LHB Coaches (Goods) (2) Analyze Design Simulate & Verify Productionze Validate Field Test & Fatigue Test For Improved Bogies & Training of IR Personnel (Service)	1)1600 Nos. 2) 1 Set	50,00,000/-
8.	05261151A/21.05.2026	Front Part Complete	30 Nos.	1,27,060/-

1. For details and making On-line bids, visit Website **http://ireps.gov.in** Drawings/specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF Website **http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in. Class IIIb digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at website http://www.cce.gov.in. 2.** All Limited tenders and Advertised tenders will normally close at 11:25 Hrs and 14:25 Hrs respectively on the stipulated date and will be opened at 11.30 Hrs and 14.30 Hrs. 3.Tenders at **Sr. No. 1 to 4** will be opened at RCF, Kapurthala and **5 to 8** will be opened at Tilak Bridge, New Delhi **4.** For queries contact IREPS Helpdesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF Helpdesk at 011-23378658. **NOTE:**"GST No. of RCF is 03AAAGM0289C1ZT. All the suppliers are advised to quote this in dispatch documents for the supplies made by them". **PCMM**

CORRIGENDUM : Tender No. (1) 17261004 Due date may be read as **04.05.2026** instead of **24.04.2026** and eligibility criteria as **eligibility criteria is modified** instead of existing. **(2) 17261006** Due date may be read as **04.05.2026** Instead of **24.04.2026** and eligibility criteria as **eligibility criteria is modified** instead of existing. **(3) 17261118** Due date may be read as **04.05.2026** Instead of 27.04.2026 and regarding **Description/Drawing is modified** instead of Description/Drawing. **(4) 17261018** for design supply, installation & commissioning of interior furnishing items of one rake set for HS-SPART. Due date may be read as **04.05.2026** Instead of 27.04.2026 **(5) 17261118** for Quantity may be read as **81 sets** instead of 39 sets & EMD may be read as **Rs. 8,07,470** instead of Rs. 1,89,410 **(6) 05251643** for procurement of set of under frame items for LHB SCN coaches Due date may be read as **08.05.2026**, Instead of 23.04.2026, Qnty. is **175 set** instead of 90 set and **EMD is Rs. 7,91,000** instead of **4,06,800/- (7) 12251356B** for supply of one coach set of aluminium extrusion/moulding for LHB, SCN, SLR and GS Amrit Bharat Coaches, Due Date may be Read as **11.05.2026** instead of 30.04.2026 **PCMM**

R.O. No. 11-S/2026-27 **Dated : 30.04.2026**

KOLHAPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION,

Subhash Store, Workshop Department
Public Tender Notice No.15

The Kolhapur Municipal Corporation is inviting tenders from private firms, transporters, organizations, etc., to determine rates and appoint a panel of contractors for hiring the following machinery on a rental basis Tractor Trolley, 50-foot capacity Boom, Backhoe Loader (JCB) Machine, Dumper, Bulldozer Machine, Road Roller, etc. Tender Submission Period From 01/05/2026 to 15/05/2026 (until 3:30 PM).

Interested bidders must first register on the website www.mahatenders.gov.in to create a Username (Email ID) and Password. Detailed tender notices, terms, and conditions are available during office hours at the Subhash Store, Workshop Department, or on the www.mahatenders.gov.in website.

Date: 30/04/2026

--SD--
City Engineer
Kolhapur Municipal Corporation

Govt. of Karnataka

Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru

(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.

No: KREIS/INFR/OTH/269/2025-ADMN/268706 Date: 30.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)

Short term Re-Tenders have been invited on 30.04.2026 for **Supply of Gas Steam Boiler with Vessels to Mysore Division Residential Schools/Colleges functioning under the Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society across Karnataka,** through e-Portal vide Indent No. **KREIS/2025-26/IND0092/CALL-2** and the last date for receipt of tenders is **14.05.2026.** The details may be viewed in the **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** website.

Sd/- Joint Director (Admin)
and Tender Inviting Authority, KREIS

DIPR/CP/YC/448/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ

ಗದಗ-ಬೆಟಗೇರಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ-582101

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ : ಗದಗ ರಾಜ್ಯ : ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ
ದೂ: 08372-259932 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: ka.gadag.betageri.cmc@gmail.com
ನಂ.ಗಬೆನಸ/ಆ.ವಿ/ವಹಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29-04-2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಇ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಗದಗ-ಬೆಟಗೇರಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಪಡೆಯಲಿಕ್ಕೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999-2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ಸ್ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಪೂರೈಕೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ:-**www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:-30-05-2026 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5-00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಈ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಶಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಅ. ನಂ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಇ.ಎಮ್.ಡಿ ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ
1	DMA/2025-26/SE7617	PROVIDING DRIVERS, WATCHMAN AND MACHINE OPERATORS TO GADAG BETAGERI CMC ON OUTSOURCE BASIS	171.05	256575/-

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಗದಗ/47/ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್‌ಪ್ರೆಸ್/2026-27

ಸಹಿ/- ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ಗದಗ-ಬೆಟಗೇರಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾಇಂ:ಗ್ರಾಕುನೀ&ನೈವಿ:ದಾ:ಕಿಇಂ-I:ಹೊ.ಗು.ಸಿ:2026-27/126
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30/04/2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು & ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಇವರ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇವಾ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ/ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯಿಂದ KPPP ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ (1) ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು & ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ವೃತ್ತ ಕಛೇರಿ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಮತ್ತು ಉಪ-ವಿಭಾಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯನ್ನು ನೇಮಿಸಲು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: 110.30 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು (2) ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು & ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಮತ್ತು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಮಟ್ಟದ ಪ್ರಯೋಗಾಲಯದ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯನ್ನು ನೇಮಿಸಲು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: 47.39 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು (3) ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಜಲ್ ಜೀವನ್ ಮಿಷನ್ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಹಾವರಕೆರೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಮನೆ ಮನೆಗೆ ನಳ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: 165.64 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08-05-2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17-00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11-05-2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 11-00ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14-05-2026ರ ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11-00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08192-262126 ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಅಥವಾ http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿಐಪಿ/56/ ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026-27

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಗ್ರಾ.ಕು.ನೀ & ನೈ. ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

M.I. &G.W.D.D. DIVISION, VIJAYPUR

No.EE/MID/VJP/AE-1/4702/TND/2026-271/287 Date: 27.04.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department, Division Vijaypurinvites work tenders through "E-Procurement" from eligible contractor on item rate Tender for following works as per KTPP Act-2000 and latest amendments.

4702 Major Works: (1) Construction of BCB across BoriNalanear KonkanagaonVillage in ChadachanTaluk of VijayapurDistrict(3rd **Call), Amount put to Tender Rs.799.79 Lakhs**, EMD **Rs.12,00,000-00, Tender Period for the above work is Eleven(11) Months including monsoon**.

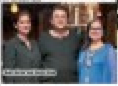
4702 SCP Works: (1) Construction of a Series of Bandar/ Barrages/Bridge-Cum-Barrages across the Local Nalato Provide Irrigation Facilities Benefiting Scheduled Caste Farmers near Mannurand Nagwad Villages in Basavan Bagewadi Taluk of Vijayapura District**(2nd Call),** Amount put to Tender: **Rs.800.00 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above work is Eleven(11) Months including monsoon.**

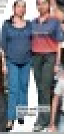
Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka E-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home** under login for Contractors from **28.04.2026.** Tenders may be submitted on electronically in E-Procurement portal up to **17:30 hrs.** on **06.05.2026.** Interested contractors information regarding works may be obtained from this office or e-Procurement helpdesk (Ph.No.080-25501216 &080-25501227) upto **17:30 hrs.** on **05.05.2026.** Pre-bid meeting will be held on **04.04.2026** for work costing above Rs.1.00 Crore in the office of the Executive Engineer, MI&GWDD Division, Vijaypur. Tenders shall be quoted without adding GST and other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
MI&GWDD Division, Vijayapura.

DIPR/Vijayapura/R.O.No 58/KSMCA/2026-27

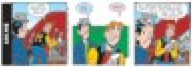
Celebrating Bengaluru's cricket win





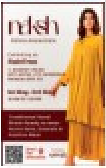
A woman runs alone. And we are still not at ease with that choice

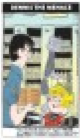
POV



FINOLEX

EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS





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UPDATE

Pink Line enters testing phase

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Critical inspections by the Research Designs and Standards Organisation for Namma Metro Pink Line have commenced, with trials scheduled to continue until May 12.

Officials from Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) said that after the inspection, RDSO will analyse test data, after which an interim speed certification will be issued. The next stage involves an inspection by the commissioner of Metro Railway Safety, whose report will be reviewed by the chief commissioner of railway safety and forwarded to the Railway Board for technical clearance of the new rolling stock.

The multi-layered approval process is expected to take two to three months. Once clearances are secured, BMRCL will seek final authorisation from the commissioner of Metro Railway Safety to open the line for operations.

So far, five train sets have been received for the seven km elevated stretch between Kalena Agrahara and Tavarekere. The full 21 km corridor, stretching from Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara and including the underground section between Dairy Circle and Nagawara, is slated for completion by the end of the year.

The paper that makes homes legal

A home may look complete, but without one crucial document, it doesn't pass the test. The Occupancy Certificate is what separates a ready home from a risky investment

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For many homebuyers, getting the keys to their dream home is a moment of joy. But that joy can quickly turn into stress if one crucial paper is missing, the Occupancy Certificate (OC). Without this legal document, a building is not officially considered safe or ready to live in. Yet, many residents across India continue to move into such flats, unaware of the risks involved.

The blame game usually starts here. Most fingers point straight at the builder. But is it always the developer's fault?

Why is the OC important?
An Occupancy Certificate is issued by the local municipal authority once a building is complete and meets all safety, environmental, and regulatory standards. It acts as proof that the home is legally fit to occupy.

Without an OC, homeowners can face serious problems. For instance, not being able to get electricity or water connections, trouble reselling the property or securing home loans.

Understanding the delay
Santhosh Kumar, vice chairman, Anarock Group, shares, "The responsibility of issuing an OC, or any delays in doing so, usually lies with the developer or promoter. It is their job to ensure that legal, safety, and construction requirements are complied within a timely manner."

However, even when developers do their part, delays can still happen. According to Hersh Lilarramani, director, Will Wall Realty, "Blaming just the developer is like blaming the bowler every time a batsman gets out to a rash shot. Sure, developers often bowl a few beamers, but let's not forget the authorities umpiring from the stands. Delays can also be due to the slow-moving machinery of bureaucracy. Multiple levels of approval, file movement between departments, and lack of coordination between agencies often slow things down, even when developers are ready."

The bigger picture
Thankfully, the system is evolving. Prashant Sharma, president, NAREDCO Maharashtra, shares, "The landscape is improving. While occasional delays may arise due to coordination among civic bodies, there is strong momentum toward resolution. The digitisation, automation, and single-window clearances in a few states, including Maharashtra, have brought much-needed transparency and speed."

Advice for homebuyers
Moving into a new home without an OC is risky, not just legally, but financially too. So, what should homebuyers do? "Before taking possession, they should ensure that all key approvals, especially the OC, are in place. It's also wise to check that the unit matches the promised specifications and that all dues are cleared," advises Sharma.

Today, most of this information is available online. The state's RERA website allows buyers to verify if a project has received its OC or not.

Real people, real voices
Priyanka Jain, a 27-year-old medical professional from Mumbai, shares, "We were so excited to move in that we didn't enquire about the OC. Only later did we find out that we couldn't get a gas connection. It was a very stressful month."

In Chennai, Priyadarshini, a corporate manager, was more cautious. "I visited the corporation office myself to check the OC status before making the final payment. It took some effort, but it gave me peace of mind."

The way forward
Experts agree that both builders and authorities need to be accountable. Buyers, too, must stay informed. While things are improving with new systems and better coordination, being aware and proactive is still the best way to protect your home and money.

In the end, the key takeaway is simple, don't just look at the paint on the walls, ask for the paperwork too. A missing OC might not be visible, but its absence can cost you far more than you think.

The Occupancy Certificate is far more than a procedural formality; it is the final assurance that a property is safe, compliant, and legally ready for habitation. For homebuyers, it safeguards both, immediate living conditions and long-term financial security, while also ensuring seamless access to essential services and future resale value.

WHY IS THE OC IMPORTANT?

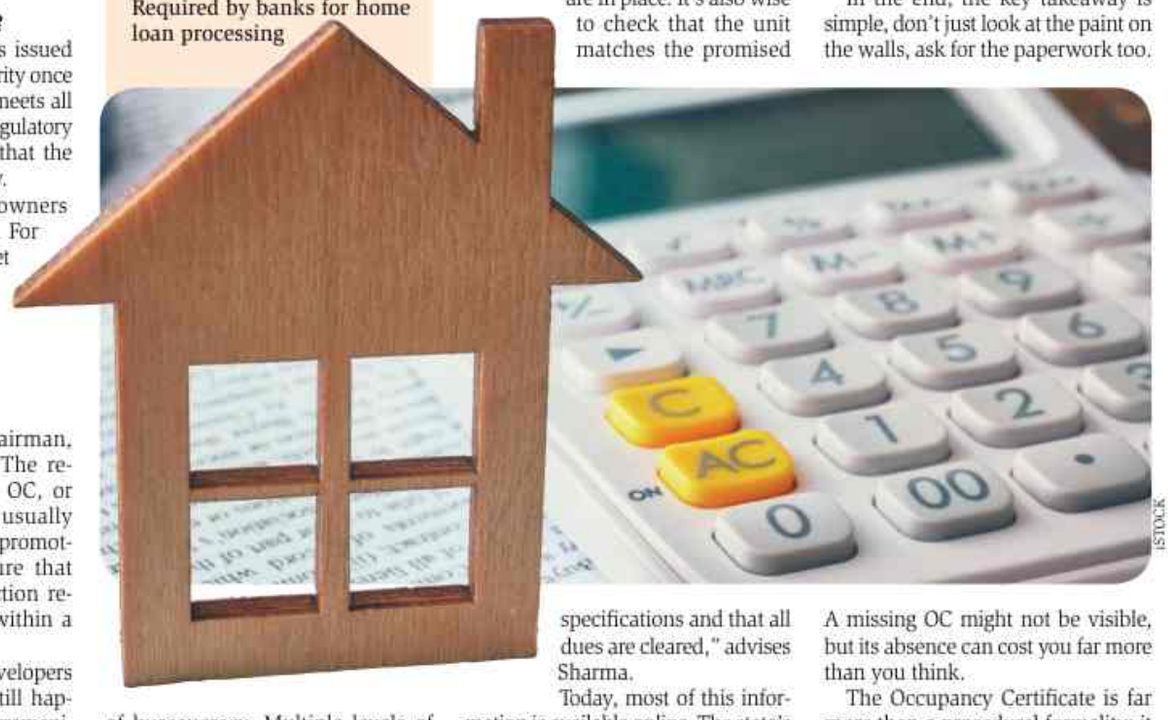
LEGAL PROOF
Confirms the property is fit for occupation

COMPLIANCE CHECK
Ensures all safety and regulatory norms are met

UTILITY ACCESS
Needed for water, electricity, and other services

RESALE EASE
Helps avoid legal hurdles during resale

LOAN APPROVAL
Required by banks for home loan processing


iSTOCK

Your Toolkit

High temperature, low bills

GLADWIN.MENEZES*@timesofindia.com*

As temperatures rise, finding ways to keep the house cool without significantly increasing electricity costs becomes a common concern. With a few thoughtful adjustments and energy-conscious habits, it's possible to maintain indoor comfort while managing utility expenses effectively.

Cooling habits
Closing curtains or blinds during the hottest parts of the day helps block out direct sunlight, while ceiling fans can circulate air effectively without heavy energy use. Reflective films, in particular, can deflect a significant portion of solar radiation, while thermal or blackout curtains offer insulation benefits. Switching to LED lighting and unplugging unused appliances also helps reduce internal heat buildup. "Heat-reflective coatings on glass assist in reflecting excessive solar radiation and preventing indoor temperatures from increasing," shares Dinesh Chandra Pandey, founder, Shankar Fenestrations and Glasses.

Smart alternatives
Options such as evaporative coolers, ventilated roofing, and reflective window films can significantly reduce heat gain. Incorporating natural ventilation, indoor plants, and light-coloured furnishings also aids in keeping spaces cooler. These methods not only lower electricity consumption but also offer more sustainable ways to stay cool during the summer.

"High humidity often makes rooms feel warmer. That's why dehumidifiers and passive ventilation solutions—such as *jaalis* and ventilation shafts—play an important role in regulating the indoor climate," says Rajeev Dubey, chairman and managing director (CMD), Starwing Group.

Natural ventilation
Cross-ventilation is effective in cooling down interiors, especially during early mornings and late evenings. This approach not only reduces reliance on electrical appliances but also contributes to improved indoor air quality. "Natural ventilation is a highly effective way to keep a home cool without relying on air conditioning. Strategically opening windows and doors allows the cool, fresh air from these natural surroundings to circulate indoors, while trees act as natural shields, blocking direct sunlight and reducing heat," remarks Sandeep Sonthalia, CEO-Townships, The Wadhwa Group.

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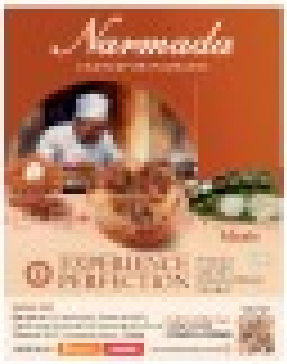
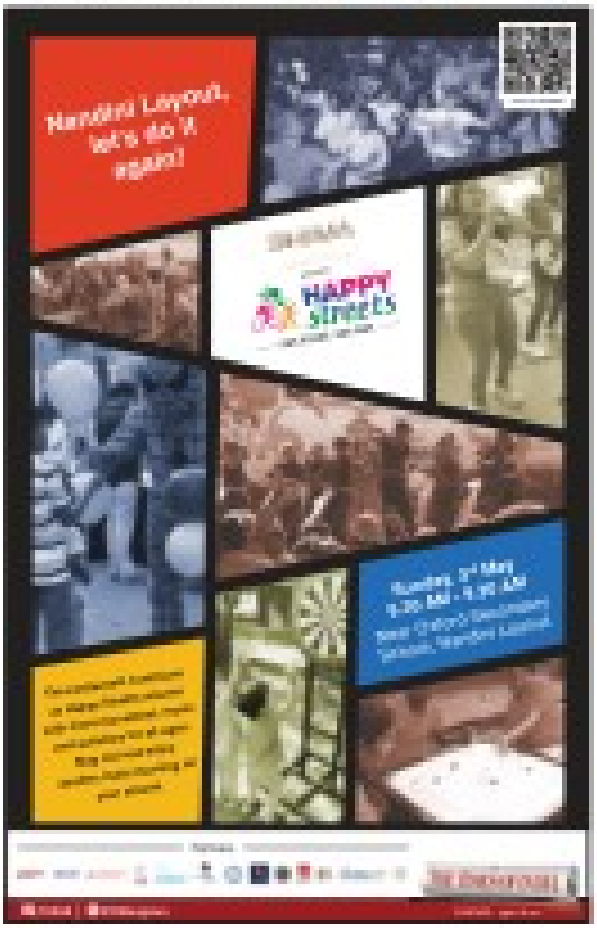
My workout routine and diet kept changing through the last three years: Dhruva Sarja

"A collage of everything my fans love"

Super stars are always celebrities in the mass dialogues. Papery and the actors of Martin, all have the flavour of all my previous films





ADVERTORIAL, PROPERTY PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

Bengaluru powers through market correction

A slight dip in quarterly sales has not shaken the city's momentum, as annual growth and rising project launches continue to signal confidence in the market

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ISTOCK

On a year-on-year (YoY) basis, the real estate market remained resilient as sales rose nine per cent compared to Q1 2025. Overall sales value also increased by six per cent, indicating steady underlying demand despite short-term disruptions.

Housing sales across India's top seven cities saw a seven per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) decline in Q1 2026, reflecting the impact of global uncertainties, including tensions in the Middle East, according to a report by Anarock. Approximately 1,01,675 units worth Rs 1.51 lakh crore were sold during the quarter, compared to 1,08,970 units worth Rs 1.60 lakh crore in Q4 2025, reveals Anarock Research's data.

The report further reveals that Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and Bengaluru continued to dominate, together accounting for nearly 48 per cent of total sales. Chennai recorded the steepest QoQ drop at 18 per cent, but also posted the highest annual growth at 31 per cent.

KEY CITY HIGHLIGHTS (Q1 2026 SALES)

City's name	Q1 2026 (units)
NCR	15,190
MMR	32,800
Bengaluru	16,440
Pune	15,300
Hyderabad	12,425
Chennai	5,310
Kolkata	4,210

SUPPLY OUTPACES DEMAND

New launches remained strong, with around 1,26,265 units introduced in Q1 2026, a two per cent QoQ and 26 per cent YoY increase. MMR and Bengaluru together contributed over half of the new supply, underlining continued developer focus on key urban markets.

At the same time, rising supply has begun to outpace absorption. Unsold inventory across the top seven cities rose to over six lakh units, marking a four per cent quarterly and seven per cent annual increase.

Anuj Puri, chairman, Anarock Group, shares, "While long-term fundamentals remain intact, short-term challenges were evident. The seven per cent dip in sales tracks the war-induced uncertainty, with sentiment impacted by rising oil and construction costs. Another key trend is that new launches have started outpacing sales, resulting in a rise in unsold inventory to over six lakh units."

PRICE TRENDS AND OUTLOOK

- Property prices across most cities saw moderate, single-digit annual growth, with NCR and Bengaluru leading the gains due to increased traction in premium and luxury housing.
- **Nihar Jayesh Thakkar, founder, The Mandate House, shares, "The seven per cent QoQ decline needs to be viewed in the context of global uncertainties. Despite this, the nine per cent YoY growth in sales and six per cent rise in value indicate that demand fundamentals remain strong."**
- Overall, Q1 2026 reflects a phase of consolidation for the housing market. While short-term sentiment has softened, steady demand, rising launches, and price stability suggest the sector remains on firm ground, with momentum likely to pick up as macroeconomic conditions improve.

FOR EDITORIAL QUERIES, CONTACT: Rakesh Malik at rakesh.malik2@timesofindia.com

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PENTHOUSE ready to move 4.5BHK, 5bathroom, 3balcony +terrace, 3500 Sqft, 5.5Cr @ Benson Town, 2km Cnngham, 8088330330 www.govianu.com

BTM LAYOUT

SALE: Park Facing Semi Comml BDA Plot, MICO Layout (2nd Stage BTM), G+1 Demolition house 1650 sft (30'X55') NF, 30ft Rd, Rs34,800/- per sft (5.75Cr nego), 9880075949, 7026001122, AgarwalEstates.Com

CUNNINGHAM ROAD

4BHK 3Balcony, 1unit/ floor, 3200Sft High end Flats Goviamu Cunningham, 100mtr frm Cunningham Rd, Last 1unit avlb. 8088330330, www.govianu.com

DEVANAHALLI

FARM HOUSE 21780 Sqft (½ Acre) For SALE (Proposed) ₹1950/- Sqft DEVANAHALLI PROPERTY WORLD BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS 9731308328 / 9743395619

FARM HOUSE with Compound wall, Gate, Plantation Etc. Near International Airport 9731308328/ 9743395619

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DEVANAHALLI Approved Sites for sale near International Airport Size 2400, 4000sqft, 9740589739/ 9731308328

18000 sqft land for sale in Devanahalli (very near to international airport) Rs 5900 per sqft. strictly no brokers. Unique Realty #09884289348

MANSION / Villa Plot 2712 sq.ft. Rs. 2.2 Crores at Lagos, Devanahalli – Doddaballapur Road. Call: 96069 57278

DOLLARS COLONY

3BHK, 2000 Sqft Luxury High end Flat for Sale, DOLLARS COLONY. For more details Contact: 8088330330. www.govianu.com

GIRINAGAR

40X60, 30x50 and 26x30 in Hanumatha Nagar, Girinagar, and Kathriguppe. Genuine Buyers and Sellers Please Contact : 8618373754

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AT Posh HBR (BDA) 5th Block 3BHK flats Newly Built ready to occupy with vastu & modern amenities. Good location. Close to Ring Road & Manyata tech park. 98450-07163 / 99723-70494

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SPACIOUS 5000 Sqft 4 BHK furnished Villa with exclusive elevator avail able for rent in Godrej-17, Hebbal, 3 Car park & Serv ant Ph: 9880223669

HENNUR

OFF-HENNUR-ROAD (750 mtrs) Arkavathi layout block 15, Gedalahalli 30X40 plot west facing for Sale 12,750 / sfts Bharadwaj Estates : 9845019934

HOSUR ROAD

8250 SFT Warehouse for Rent suitable for E Commerce & etc. in D C Halli Main Road, Bommanahalli.9663436944

HSR LAYOUT

HSR-WANTED-BDA-SITES And Houses 50x80 & 40x60 & 30x40 & 20x30 For Immediate Settlement Owners and Agent Call : 9343827680 / 9480238650.

LAST 2 Flats left At Posh HSR 2nd sec. Newly built & ready to occupy 2BHK flats with Vastu & Modern amenities for sale. Call : 98450-07163 / 80508-88648

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INDIRANAGAR, off 80 Ft Rd 2nd flr – 3600 sq. ft. office space rent car parking & 100% power backup. North-facing PH: 9845427614 Agents Welcomes

HAL 2nd Stage. East-South Corner prime property 2460 sft Facing Park next to Indira Nagar Club. Cell 9845443283 stjoseph559@yahoo.com

JAKKUR

JUDICIAL LAYOUT SITE FOR SALE 7850 Sft EAST FACING ON 14th Main Road 20K CALL: 98459 22769

FOR SALE Semi Commercial East Facing 5000 Sft PLOT A Katha

NEXT TO Arkavathi Layout, Chokkanahalli, Rate 10,500/- Per Sq.ft. Contact Owner: 9886400201 / 9341257059

4000SQFT N/E Corner Plot For Sale Judicial Layout Jakkur. 40ft Rd on both Sides Buying commission Applicable Direct buyers only. WhatsApp Message only: 9663766492

JAYANAGAR

HOUSE for SALE.Jayanagar 1st Block East Byrasandra BDA Layout Ground+1st Floor 6 BHK on 40x60. Rs. 28000 psft. Negotiable. Interested buyers Contact: Raphael: 9343728200

COMML Rent 2400sqft Built area 1000sqft Open Space,1st Floor, 3rd Block Jayanagar opp Madavan Park, above Bramins Cafe Ph: 9845004514/ 9845328043

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Grand villa style entryway to Vastu aligned apartment with a balinese inspired gardens. 3 BHK starts from 1.45 Cr*

PRIVATE VARANDA Space, RERA APPROVED, with 60+ Amenities. 800 meters to Silk Institute metro, Kanakapura road & Nice Road, Ct: 9743859000

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SALE: 1340 SQ.FT,2 BHK at Adarsh Gardens, 7th Floor, North facing. Call:9448314766/8971597766

3 BHK FOR SALE Valmark Orchard Square, 6th Phase, JP Nagar Higher Floor,Price: 1.80 Cr Contact: 6366777717

JUDICIAL LAYOUT

4BHK, 4000 Sqft Luxury high end flats, Judicial layout gkvk, ONE Floor ONE Unit 100% floor FLAT Sale: 8088330330, www.govianu.com

KANAKAPURA ROAD

RENT/SALE 50% Dvlpr's Share Rs. 5.70 Cr, expected Rent 3 Lacs Kanakapura Mn Rd, Opp Thalght'pura Police Stn Comm Bldng, 1600 Sft to 3300 Sft Each Floor, Basement Parkig+3 Flrs. Call : 9845708104.

3 BHK N F spacious premium flats 2400 sft for sale in BCMC layout Kanakapura road very close to vajarahalli metro station 1 unit per floor total 4 units call 9845012913

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KORAMANGALA PREMIUM RESIDENCIAL LOCATION 3RD BLOCK 40X60 & 60X90 FOR SALE

KORAMANGALA PRIME Commercial Loc 40x60, 50x70, 60x100, 80x120 Available For Sale Call : 98451 56191/ 91642 35679

MAGADI ROAD

3BHK, Luxury High End Flats Sale, Govindarajnagar Magadi Rd, Next to Royal Enfield shrw, OC received Last 2 units only, 8088330330, www.govianu.com

MALLESHWARAM

MALLESWARAM 11th Main. SALE New duplex 5 BHK. North Facing Door. 2 car parking. 2216 SFT SBA. 6 Cr. AND NEW 3 BHK North Facing Door, 1 car parking, 1491 sft SBA. 4.1 Cr. E Katha available for both. Contact: 8151991952

2BHK. 1st flr, independent house, newly renovated, 18th Cross. Small families. Preference for tenants who can lease thru corporates / banks etc. Brokers excuse. Ph 9844124290

SALE 50x80 40ft Road Near Manthri Mahal old NKB Hotel Rd Malleshwaram Sampige Rd Semi Commercial Regionable Rate Ct: 9611844667 / 8123515830

FULLY Furnished 16,000Sft. A/C Showroom For Sale On Prime Busy Commercial Area, 8th Cross, Malleshwaram, Call: 9845358544 / 9448477419.

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1900SQFT, Luxury High-end Flat with swimming pool, club house, in HMT ROAD 60 Feet Road. Call: 8088330330, www.govianu.com

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SITE for Sale 20x40 and 30x40 North Facing Near National Public School Muddinapalya Circle Loan Documents with BDA NOC Call: 9916061166

SITE for Sale 20x40 and 30x40 North Facing Near National Public School Muddinapalya Circle Loan Documents with BDA NOC Call: 9916061166

NAGARBHAVI for sale 40×70 south facing site in Malagala . Contact 9886969003 or 9164498991

MG ROAD & AROUND

Immediate Available For Rent 700sqft Shop Space Location: Bangalore

OCCUPANCY @ Main Kamraj Road professional layout, for all business owners PH:7483357234/ 9980797112

NAGASANDRA

FOR SALE - AREA -13068.Sft RESIDENTIAL LAND FOR SALE in Nagasandra Main Road towards Nelakadarana halli. Call: 90711 53337

OMBR LAYOUT

BDA Plot For Sale, Corner Site OMBR Layout, Total Area 6125Sqft East Facing, 5th Main Road, 60 Feet Main Road. Contact: 9986071243, 7090594594

OUTER RING ROAD

Resurgent Spaces Adarsh Lake Front RMZ Ecoworld 3.5 bhk Super Premium Lake facing 2212sft 4.75Cr 9886078045

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2SITES Immediate Sale 80ftx100ft in Hegganahalli Cross Bangalore A&E Katha Bore Well , Brick Wall Fenced Contact: 9900287834/ 9448377834

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OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE IN Dr.RAJKUMAR ROAD Fully furnished 2 flrs with imported work stations,1st Flr built-up 4500 sqft, 2nd Flr built up 6078 sqft for more details PH : 9686862553, 6360821206

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RMV EXTENSION

PRESTIGE Fairfield - Available for Rent 3 BHK Vastu Compliant East Facing with all amenities and Two Car Parking. Contact 9632221623

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2-3 Bed residences in prime neighbourhoods

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Church Street	Deauville Apartments	3 BHK
Ulsoor	Usha Kiran Apartments	3 BHK
Richards Park	Regency Park	2 BHK

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FOR SALE Exclusive homes & plots 4,000sft + Rs.12 Cr + Single point contact. 9900142491 / 9731131641

SAHAKARA NAGAR

Sale – 40x60 Plot with Villa, East Facing, 60ft Road, Taurus Realty Ph: 98450 09512 Broker Excuse

SARJAPUR ROAD

PRIME corner plot 2773 sqft 3 side open park north facing in Confident Platinum ll, Sarja pura road, Yamare Village. Contact: 9845039547, 9945563995

SARJAPUR Road Reliable Lifestyle 50x55, Farms Gardinea 40X60, Sunny Brooks 30X50, Green Villa 40x60, Address Makers 40X60 Sale: 74118 96696

FOR SALE Prime Residentially Converted Land for Sale on SARJAPUR ROAD Bangalore. 21000 SqFt. Close to Wipro Sez 120 Ft. From Main Road. Suitable for High End Villa or Apartment. +91 97433 35678

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3&4BHK Luxury High-end Flats for Sale at Seshadripuram, 5min from Mantri Mall, For details Contact 8088330330, www.govianu.com

SALE 3BHK Flat Ground Flr EF 1320 S.Ft. Covered Car Park 2Bathrms UDS 1000 Sft Suitabl: Res/Comml. Ready Occupation Call: 9886019240/ 080 26603673

VIJAYA NAGAR

HOUSE for Sale (40x58) In Chadra Layout | BDA | East Facing | Excellent Location | Close to Purple Metro | Rs 6Cr Nego | Contact : 91 6364003399

SITE FOR SALE 60x90 RPC Layout VIJAYNAGAR

PRIME LOCATION Site 60x90 West Facing WOC Road RPC Layout Only Genuine Buyers 6363250343/ 9845038343

INDEPENDENT House 3BHK, 40*50/2000Sft, South East Corner, Near Sobha Hospital,Off Pategarpalya Main Road.99868 64000

VISVESWARAIAH LAYOUT

North facing BDA 1264sft site for sale at 6th block, Visveswaraiah layout Call:9844039482

BDA Site Sale 30x32 NF Jnanabharthi 2nd Stage Allotty Near Amma Ashrama, Back Side Park & 40x60 North SMV 2nd Block 9600/-. Call: 8970306030

BDA Site For Sale M Visveswaraiah Layout. 2nd Block South Facing 30x40 Good Peaceful Location Owner 9845294603.

WHITEFIELD

PRESTIGE Shantiniketan Penthouse for Sale / Rent . 4.5 BHK 4 car parks, Furnished ready to move contact: 9880178659 / 8951665760

YESHWANTHPUR

3BHK, 1500sqft Luxury High end Flat for Sale, OC received, in YESHWANTPUR, For details Contact: 8088330330 www.govianu.com

FOR SALE

UDAIPUR

SALE in Destination Wedding City UDAIPUR 3 BHK Luxury 1600 sft, 2 Flats, Prem. Res. area nr Schools, Malls, Lakes. W'app +91 95094 81257, +1 857 347 7806

BANGALORE

COMMERCIAL property: #384, Subbaiahnapalya 80ft road, Banaswadi, opp Omshakti temple, Corner site Vacant, 900 sqft. 9880590946,9844058145

RENT yielding property in Ulsoor, SNT street 6 units - 1 BHK, 5 units - 2BHK Rental income of 2.75L/month Asking price is 5.80cr slightly negotiable Contact 9845044873

BDA Commercial Building BSK - Bank Colony, Near PES College, 60 x 40 Corner North Facing. Expected Rent - 3.10 Lk Price - 7.5 Cr. Call - 9110479782

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY on Chikkalasandra main road. DOUBLE STORY building on 1215 sqft land. Contact: 9902576582/ 9900243689

FOR Sale, North Facing 2400 Sft Triangular property with Old House, near Kamaraj Road, Bangalore. Brokers excuse. Ph: 7829665511

4BHK spacious villa for sale in Budigere Cross. 3300 sqft sbua. North facing. BMRDA approved e-khata. 2.38 cr. Cont 9716000154

PREMIUM Running Salon for Sale - Bangalore prime Mall Ready-to-earn business with an existing loyal customer base. Call 8884446397.

FARM HOUSES

FULLY Developed Farmland @ 1 Hr From Whitefield.... U Can Go To Bali Every Weekend Near KOLAR. 750/sft. Pls Whattsapp 8951227668 & Visit

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LAND FOR SALE 1.4 acres Industrial 6.27 acres residential Land for Sale at Kotekar Village Cross Road, Mangalore. Best suitable for Industries, Hospitals and Colleges. Contact - 9880444990

GOA PROPERTIES

COMMERCIAL PREMISES

SITE Bearing No.317, Bank Officers Layout at DODDAKALLASANDRA 1st STAGE, Bengaluru, measuring 3775 Sqft., East facing, Semi commercial, 18,000/- psqft, sightly negotiable. Call: Jagadish: 9845014841/ 9742423219.

OUTSIDE BANGALORE

CHIKMAGALUR

DUPLEX Villa with assured rental 1lakh per month for Sale part of 5 Star upcoming resort in Chikamagalur. Call 8088330330

KOLAR

SALE HIGHWAY LAND MALUR/KOLAR ROAD Agrahara Hosahalli near STRR VOKKALERI Exit 2 ACRES 11 GUNTAS Level Land Prime Frontage Call 7019472246 9045257786

MYSORE

MYSORE Commercial GF 1400 Sft with Strong room, CP. On JLB Rd Chamundipuram. For Bank, Gold loan NBFC, Display center, Showroom, Retail. CALL: 94440 74218

3BHK High-end Luxury Flats, Govianu Gurikar Luxuria - Mysore, Zoo road, opposite to Gandhi park, Ready to occupy, 8088330330, www.govianu.com

RERA Approval No: PRM/KA/RERA/1251/309/PR/051125/008225 Project Handover 2027

2.5 & 3 BHK APTS. LAST 5 UNITS TO GRAB Price 2.72Cr upwards CC/OC Project

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100 FT Rd, Food Park Mn Rd 23000 Sqft Build To suit Corner Plot EF, 2 Cranes, 1st Phase, 2 Warehouse 9008111116/ 9845055155

A) 15000SQFT TUDA approved site, Jaganathpura Tumkur B) 1200 SQFT TUDA site Belagumba Tumkur, 200mtrs from NH4. 8088330330

PROPERTY ANCILLARIES

COMMERCIAL PREMISES

RENTAL INCOME PROPERTY FOR SALE

MISSION ROAD, Total 4000sft. Ground and Basement, Corner Excellent Property, 3 Sides Road, Current Rental Income Rs. 4.65 Lac p.m. CONTACT : 7397741830

7500 sqft OFFICE for RENT

@LAVELLE ROAD, FULLY FURNISHED OFFICE for RENT "A" GRADE BUILDING. CONTACT : 99003509945

CBSE Curriculum School building 30,000sft (Land 2 Acres) for Sale

KANAKAPURA SOUTH Bengaluru Immediate Take Over, With students Contact 9886164245/ 9916387431

COMMERCIAL retail space for sale at Yelahanka, with tenant paying 3L per flr, 3000 sqft luxury one floor one unit 100% flr office space sale: 8088330330

COMMERCIAL retail space sale- Sahakar nagar, tenant paying 2.5L per flr, 2500 sqft luxury one floor one unit 100% flr office space: 8088330330

COMMERCIAL retail space for sale with tenant paying 3L per flr, 3200sqft, Yeshwanthpur nr Kia showrm, one flr one unit 100% flr office space: 8088330330

FULLY Developed Clinic Available For Rent Malleshwaram with Consultation Rooms, Diagnostics, Radiology, Pharmacy, and Complete Amenities. Ideal for Medical Practitioners or Healthcare Groups. Serious Enquiries only. Contact: 9972181837

COMMERCIAL Space for Sale 7200 sq ft on 2nd floor in Radiant Karel on Bangalore-Mysore road nr Pantarapalya Metro Station. Call: 98446 44055

CAMBRIDGE Nr Saibaba Temple Gf.1f,Pent house with Servant Room,100% Power Backup, Ccp, Lift. Rs.12k Per Sqft Sale 9087560000

INTERIOR DESIGNER

15 YRS Exp Wpc kitchen (50 Yrs Warranty) 529+ Happy customers Transparent Price on time delivery M : 9739852288/ 9739852255

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J.C.ROAD 1st Cross 3000 Sqft GROUND FLOOR 2000 Sqft MEZZANINE FLOOR 9980828090 / 9845017001

SGN LAYOUT Available For Rent in Prime Location of J.C. Road 1st Cross, Bangalore. 99808 28090/ 98450 17001

FOR Lease Prime Location Office, 7000 Sft On MG Rd. Trinity Circle. Ideal For NBFC, Any Corporate. 9822222666

1500 Sq.ft of Office Space available for Rent at Manipal Centre. Contact: 7892649089 / 9880306788.

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1200 sq ft : A to E Khata Residential Land Required for outright Purchase in Bangalore Call: +91 75340 90909

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ADAG companies case: Next hearing on May 8

▶ Continued from page 1

The bench, which had on March 23 expressed displeasure over the perceptible reluctance on the part of probe agencies to proceed against ADAG companies, said it would pass further orders after going through the status reports and posted the matter for further hearing on May 8.

During the last hearing, Anil Ambani's counsel Mukul Rohatgi had said that ADAG is ready to discuss settlement of dues with banks and financial institutions.

On Thursday, senior advocate Kapil Sibal appeared for him and told the bench that the court needed to know the background of the case, which is crucial.

Taking a cue from the subject matter of the PIL, which alleged that huge amounts were taken by ADAG companies as loans from banks and then insolvency proceedings were initiated to enable these companies to be taken over for a song by relatives, advocate Prabhas Bajaj said such a scam is all pervasive in insolvency proceedings.

The bench said it would not go into individual cases. "Our effort is to dispel the impression that big players, involved in such cases, get away lightly," it said.

For the first time since March 2019, Indian refiners source oil from Iran

▶ Continued from page 1

While shipments from Saudi Arabia came through East-West crude pipeline, the UAE sent consignments via ADCOP pipeline to Fujairah on the Gulf of Oman. Supplies from other Gulf producers continue to depend largely on the Strait of Hormuz.

For the first time since March 2019, Indian refiners also sourced nearly 1.3 lakh barrels of oil a day from Iran in April, after the US eased sanctions for a month to help reduce global crude prices. They also secured about 2.9 lakh barrels a day from Venezuela after a gap of 11 months.

Imports of LPG fell to less than 1 million tonnes (MT) in April, down from 2-2.2 MT during the pre-crisis months. Data showed that India received nearly 9.5 lakh tonnes of the primary cooking fuel in April, about 16% less than March shipments, which were estimated at a little over 1.1 MT. The supply gap was plugged by a 30% increase in domestic LPG production.

Supplies from non-Gulf countries — including the US, Australia, Canada, Norway and Russia — helped India secure 1.9 million tonnes of natural gas in April, up from 1.6 MT in March.

भारतीय समुद्री विश्वविद्यालय
INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY
(Central University, Govt. of India)
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Admission Notification for I.T.I Trades, Bengaluru

MANUU-ITI, Bangalore invites applications for admission for the Academic year 2026-2027. The details are as follows:

Sl.	Name of the Trade	Qualification	Duration	Seats
01	Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Technician (RACT)	**SSLC Pass** or equivalent	Two years	24
02	Electronics Mechanic (EM)	**SSLC Pass** or equivalent	Two years	24

Admission shall be based on merit. Reservation policy as per Government of India norms. No fees shall be charged for all the above trades. However, a refundable caution money deposit of rupees Sixty) Rs. 60/- is to be deposited at the time of admission.
The application forms will be issued free of cost from **1st May, 2026**. The forms can be obtained from MANUU-ITI, Bangalore campus situated at: **CA Site No. 2 (P), 1st Main Road, Jnana Bharthi Layout, 3rd Block, Mysore Road, Near R.V. Engg. College, Valagerahalli, Bangalore-560059.**
The application form can also be downloaded from University website: www.manuu.edu.in. The last date for submission of filled-in application forms at MANUU-ITI, Bangalore is 15th May, 2026. Visit website: www.manuu.edu.in for details (Office Ph. No. **080-29742261**).
Admission counseling at MANUU-ITI, Bangalore: **20th May, 2026.**
Note: Filled in Application form and supporting documents can be sent by email to **iti.bangalore@manuu.edu.in**

REGISTRAR

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE
ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ
Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru - 560 072. India

Advt No. D/1/2026 — 1st May 2026

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR
THE POST OF DIRECTOR, ISEC

1. The Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru established in the year 1972, seeks an eminent candidate for appointment as its Director. ISEC is a highly recognized national institute dedicated to promoting inter-disciplinary research, academics, and policy advocacy in social sciences. The prospective candidate must be distinguished in any of the social sciences with qualities of leadership, and should possess the following credentials:
   (I) A person imbibing the highest standards of professional competence, personal and professional integrity, impeccable morals and unflinching institutional/organisational commitment
   (ii) A distinguished academician, with a minimum of ten years' of experience as Professor in a University or ten years' of experience in a reputed research and / or academic administrative organization with proof of having demonstrated academic leadership;
2. The selected candidate on appointment as the Director of the Institute shall be eligible to serve for a maximum term of five (5) years or up to attaining the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. She/He shall also be eligible for appointment for a 2nd term as Director (in accordance with the due process of appointing a Director under the relevant provisions of law in force) subject to the age of retirement, which is 65 years.
3. The Director of the Institute shall be paid a monthly salary **(as per UGC VII pay scale)** equivalent to that of a Vice-Chancellor of public universities in Karnataka State. The Director will also be entitled to certain other benefits which along with other terms & conditions of her/his service shall be as determined by the Board of Governors, ISEC.
4. In support of unblemished career & undoubted integrity, an applicant
   (i) who has retired from service, should file a self-attested certificate to the effect that, "no departmental/criminal enquiry is instituted/pending against her/him or no enquiry has culminated in penalties and she/he carries neither a tainted service history nor any dispute relating to appointment.
   (ii) who is in-service, must submit the vigilance clearance certificate from her/his employer to the same effect as vide 4(i) above.
   Note that the concerned will be subjected to stringent action if certificate is found to be false.
5. The application proforma is available on the website of the Institute for Social and Economic Change at **https://www.isec.ac.in/**
6. An application that is either incomplete or is not made in prescribed proforma, as well as application that is received after the stipulated time limit shall not be entertained. This office shall not be held responsible for postal or any other kind of delay.
7. **Canvassing in any form by the candidate will result in disqualification of the candidature.**
8. The applicants interested to serve as Director, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru should
   (i) Submit their candidacy through post by sending hardcopies in triplicate, duly filled in the stipulated proforma, which can be accessed on the ISEC website: **https://www.isec.ac.in/**
   Postal address for dispatching hardcopies is as under :
   Office of the Chairperson, Room No. 102, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Dr V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi PO, Bengaluru – 560 072, Karnataka.
   (ii) also email a PDF copy of the application in the prescribed proforma at **chairman@isec.ac.in**
9. The deadline for receiving the applications by both post and email is **5.30 pm of 1st June, 2026.**
10. No application will be received by hand by anyone at the institute.

DIPR/CP/445/SHIRDI SAI/2026-27

Sd/-
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BRIDCUL (ब्रिडकुल)
ब्रिज, रोपवे, टनल एण्ड अदर इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेंट कॉरपोरेशन ऑफ उत्तराखण्ड लिमिटेड
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम) पूर्व में उत्तराखण्ड राज्य अवस्थापना विकास निगम लिमिटेड
प्रधानकार्यालय– अवस्थापना भवन, 583 – ठ, राजकीय आई0टी0आई0 निरंजनपुर के सामने, माजरा, सहारनपुर रोड, देहरादून–248001
टैलीफोन–0135–2522941, ई–मेल: bridcul@gmail.com, CIN No. U45203UR2008SGC032591

Ref No: 702 /BRIDCUL-11(7)/26 — **Dated: 28/04/2026**

Advertisement for Appointment of Chief General Manager (Projects), General Manager (HR), Project Manager and Senior Resident Engineer on Deputation/ Service Transfer

BRIDCUL is an undertaking of Government of Uttarakhand with a mandate for infrastructure development viz. construction of buildings, roads, bridges, ropeway and other infrastructure projects within and outside the State. BRIDCUL seeks to induct professional for following posts on Deputation/Service Transfer basis:-

S. No.	Name of Post	Group	No. of Post
1	Chief General Manager (Projects)	A	1
2	General Manager	A	1
3	General Manager (HR)	A	1
4	Project Manager	B	2
5	Senior Resident Engineer	B	3

- Qualification, experience, salary, age limit, format for application and other details concerning the advertisement may be seen/downloaded from our website www.bridcul.com (under the title "Recruitments") on and after 02.05.2026.
- The hard copy of the application form and other documents need to send at General Manager (HR),BRIDCUL, Awasthapana Bhawan, 583Th, Opposite Govt. ITI, Niranjanpur, Majra, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun- 248001, Uttarakhand.
- The last date for receiving of application is 15.05.2026 upto 1700Hrs. Changes if any, will be uploaded on our website.
- Candidates who have previously applied for the aforementioned posts vide advertisement no. 549/BRIDCUL-11(7)/26 dated 02.04.2026, issued by BRIDCUL, are not required to apply again.

General Manager (HR), BRIDCUL

भारत सरकार
कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय
त्वरित कॉर्पोरेट समापन प्रसंस्करण केंद्र (सी-पेस),
आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वी मंज़िल,
प्लाट P-6,7,8, से.-5, आई.एम.टी. मानेसर, गुडगाँव,
हरियाणा - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE)
IICA Building, 7th Floor,
Plot P-6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar,
Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

FORM No. STK –6
PUBLIC NOTICE

[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]

Public Notice:ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2026-27/157 — Date: 23/04/2026

Reference:

In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (55) companies in the **Karnataka** state under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S.No.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AC3039713	U80903KA2021PTC143729	NIRMISU LEARNING PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AC3026755	U45309KA2018PTC109502	MANSV RISE CONSTRUCTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
3	AC3036588	U62099KA2024PTC187113	ENQDB TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
4	AC2986472	U15316KA2022PTC159438	LEGION FOOD PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED
5	AC3051911	U01110KA2020PTC134958	GRASSWAY FARMS PRIVATE LIMITED
6	AC3055317	U68200KA2025PTC204361	TRIPLE THREE BUILDSCAPE PRIVATE LIMITED
7	AC3052225	U85500KA2022PTC160686	NIVIM INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION PRIVATE LIMITED
8	AC3023279	U80903KA2019PTC120973	ANALIZ GLOBAL CONSULTANCY PRIVATE LIMITED
9	AC3076357	U72900KA2021PTC154447	ELE OOTA TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
10	AC2496665	U70100KA2013PTC068439	V R RESIDENCY PRIVATE LIMITED
11	AC2635864	U72200KA2012PTC067014	SAKHATECH TECHNOLOGY VENTURES PRIVATE LIMITED
12	AC2610834	U74900KA2014PTC076094	MEDIJURIS CONSULTANCY AND SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
13	AC2651033	U74994KA2010PTC053456	IDT DESIGN CONSULTANTS PRIVATE LIMITED
14	AC2649897	U92413KA1992PTC013350	MILLENNIUM FITNESS AND SPA POOLS PRIVATE LIMITED
15	AC2636122	U47721KA2025PTC196959	STABILIS NUTRACEUTICALS PRIVATE LIMITED
16	AC2648676	U40104KA2015PTC082406	MAANVI SOLAR PRIVATE LIMITED
17	AC3001896	U80903KA2019PTC127087	ISLG DEVELOPMENT PRIVATE LIMITED
18	AC2799963	U74900KA2016PTC086901	NUMAME EXIM PRIVATE LIMITED
19	AC2678404	U78300KA2023PTC182654	STRATIVIS COMMERCE PRIVATE LIMITED
20	AC2689063	U25200KA2015PTC083138	BREMELS ZINGA TYRE SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
21	AC2706197	U71200KA2024OPC185603	ELEVATE TECH SERVICES (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
22	AC2767658	U17299KA2017PTC100299	BELGAUM FABRICS PRIVATE LIMITED
23	AC2985709	U72900KA2021PTC146579	NEXT ENVISION PRIVATE LIMITED
24	AC2710156	U74999KA2017PTC103000	TRILLDATA TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
25	AC2982071	U72200KA2013PTC072731	TURACO MOBILE PRIVATE LIMITED
26	AC2728263	U25192KA2010PTC053859	SOLIDITE INDUSTRIAL TYRES AND SYSTEMS PRIVATE LIMITED
27	AC2969025	U72900KA2021PTC156046	COLD SOUP MULTIMEDIA SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
28	AC2816063	U24304KA2020PTC137195	DIVITLIFE PHARMA PRIVATE LIMITED
29	AC2963585	U72200KA2012PTC064790	BIG DATA ANALYTICS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
30	AC2767623	U28100KA2011PTC057302	BELGAUM STEEL WORKS PRIVATE LIMITED
31	AC2766071	U45208KA2011PTC057279	SATISH INDUSTRIAL PARK PRIVATE LIMITED
32	AC2820452	U74999KA2017PTC103896	BEMONOID HEALTHTECH PRIVATE LIMITED
33	AC2784412	U72900KA2020PTC140526	ASTUTE GIRAFFE PRIVATE LIMITED
34	AC2828433	U72900KA2015PTC079957	SPOOLE SYSTEMS PRIVATE LIMITED
35	AC2827927	U80301KA2021PTC153630	SAPIEN CODE PRIVATE LIMITED
36	AC3008965	U72200KA2019PTC127570	NUDJUR LABS PRIVATE LIMITED
37	AC2797850	U01100KA2019PTC125083	KISANSAATHI AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY CHAIN PRIVATE LIMITED
38	AC2801830	U67110KA2023PTC170655	BPF FINANCIAL SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
39	AC2811169	U22219KA2014PTC076772	KROPEX CANDIDA PRINT PRIVATE LIMITED
40	AC2817594	U58203KA2024OPC191046	HOUSEFUL GAMES (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
41	AC2806909	U62099KA2023PTC179443	TECHSPACE ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED
42	AC2823239	U74900KA2016OPC085650	MOSTAZA SEED ECOMMERCE (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
43	AC2835646	U85500KA2025PTC197855	RISAYA CHOOLS GLOBAL EDUCATION PRIVATE LIMITED
44	AC2835383	U74999KA2017PTC106411	CLADVERSE PRIVATE LIMITED
45	AC2838882	U46491KA2024PTC186968	FUZZY PEACH PRIVATE LIMITED
46	AC2850809	U72900KA2018PTC114676	HEYBUDD TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
47	AC2876985	U74999KA2018PTC112609	GRL CARGO PRIVATE LIMITED
48	AC2963123	U43299KA2023PTC175575	KYNEST CONTRACTS PRIVATE LIMITED
49	AC2964325	U72200KA2017FTC107330	AFTERNOW LAB PRIVATE LIMITED
50	AC2865168	U52335KA2020PTC132755	BRISK EV CHARGE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
51	AC2900773	U72200KA2013PTC070909	OCEAN SOFTSOLUTIONS (MANGALORE) PRIVATE LIMITED
52	AC2896598	U14101KA2023PTC171840	HUSNA COUTURE PRIVATE LIMITED
53	AC2882852	U55200KA2022PTC169209	IMPERIO FRIED CHICKEN PRIVATE LIMITED
54	AC2875755	U85100KA2021PTC155641	NUNBUN LABS PRIVATE LIMITED
55	AC2931692	U70109KA2022PTC160669	SURYA KALYAN CONSULTANTS PRIVATE LIMITED

2. Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.
3. Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.
4. Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Itkan Tirkey
Deputy Registrar
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit

CBC 07123/11/0070/2627

Registrar

FAKIR MOHAN UNIVERSITY
Vyasa Vihar, Nuapadhi, Balasore, Odisha, Pin-756089
Phone : 06782-275787
email-id : registrarfmuniversity@gmail.com
Website : www.fmuniversity.nic.in

No. FMU/Estt.(T)-II-04/2026/4140 — **Date : 30.04.2026**

INDICATIVE ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT OF FACULTY POSITIONS

Fakir Mohan University invites online applications from eligible Indian citizens for appointment to the posts of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor in the disciplines of Applied Geology, Biotechnology & Bio-Science, Botany, Business Management, Chemistry, Commerce, Computer Science, Economics, Education, English, Environmental Science, Geography, History & Archaeology, Journalism & Mass Communication, Mathematics, Odia, Physics, Political Science, Population Studies, Sociology, Urdu and Zoology. The recruitment shall be conducted in accordance with the UGC Regulations, 2018 and subsequent guidelines issued by the Government of Odisha.

The application process shall be conducted entirely in online mode through the recruitment portal **(https://himsrecruitment.odisha.gov.in/home).** The online application process will commence from **07 May 2026** and will remain open until **07 June 2026.** The online generated application along with all supporting documents must reach the undersigned on or before **17 June 2026** by Speed Post only.

Detailed information regarding subject-wise vacancies, category-wise reservation, eligibility conditions, screening procedure and other instructions is available on the recruitment portal.

Applicants are required to carefully read the instructions available on the recruitment portal before filling up the online application form. Candidates must upload all relevant documents including certificates, experience credentials and NOC wherever applicable and complete the application process within the stipulated time.

Candidates are advised to ensure their eligibility before applying, as incomplete or incorrect applications are liable to be rejected. The University reserves the right to modify, cancel or revise the recruitment process at any stage without prior notice. Applicants are advised to regularly visit the University website for updates and notifications.

Further details are available on the University website **https://fmuniversity.nic.in** and the recruitment portal **(https://himsrecruitment.odisha.gov.in/home).**

By Order of the Vice-Chancellor
Sd/-
Registrar

PFC CONSULTING LIMITED
(A wholly owned subsidiary of PFC Limited)
Regd. Office: First Floor, "Urjanidhi", 1, Barakhamba Lane, Connaught Place, New Delhi – 110001, Fax: 011-23443990

GLOBAL INVITATION (THROUGH E-BIDDING ONLY)
FOR SELECTION OF TRANSMISSION SERVICE PROVIDER ON BUILD, OWN, OPERATE AND TRANSFER (BOOT) BASIS FOR INTER-STATE TRANSMISSION PROJECT

PFC Consulting Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Power Finance Corporation Limited (A Government of India Undertaking), invites proposals for setting up of transmission projects on Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis following single stage two envelope process of "Request for Proposal" (RfP).

Interested bidders may refer to the RfP notification and RfP documents available on the website **https://www.mstcecommerce.com** and **https://www.pfcclindia.com.**

The Bidders may obtain the RfP documents on all working days between 10:30 hrs (IST) and 16:00 hrs (IST) **from 01.05.2026 to one working day prior to bid submission for the projects mentioned below** on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 5,00,000/- or USD 7,000 plus applicable GST @18% from 9th Floor, Wing - A, Statesman House, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110001, Tel.: +91-11-23443912/906; Fax: 91-11-23443990; e-mail: pfcci.itp@pfcindia.com. The RfP documents can also be downloaded from **https://www.mstcecommerce.com** and **https://www.pfcclindia.com,** however, in such case, interested party can submit Response to RfP only on submission of non-refundable fee of Rs.5,00,000/- or USD 7,000 plus applicable GST @18% separately. The survey report and clarification to RfP documents shall be issued to those bidders, who have obtained/ purchased RfP documents by paying requisite fee at least one working day prior to bid submission date. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated regarding clarifications/ amendments/ time extensions etc., if any. The important timelines in this regard are as follows:

S. No	Name of Transmission Scheme	Last Date for seeking clarifications (dd/mm/yyyy)	Last Date for submission of response to RfP (dd/mm/yyyy)	Date of opening of Response to RfP (dd/mm/yyyy)
1.	**Network Expansion scheme in Western Region to cater to pumped storage potential near Satara (up to 4500MW) - Part A**	21.05.2026	03.07.2026 up to 15:00 hrs (IST)	03.07.2026 up to 15:30 hrs (IST)

Note: PFC Consulting Limited reserves the right to cancel or modify the process without assigning any reason and without any liability. This is not an offer.

Bid Process Coordinator
PFC CONSULTING LTD.
(A wholly owned subsidiary of PFC Ltd.)
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

An Initiative of
Ministry of Power
Government of India

Initiative Partner
Central Electricity Authority

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Chief Engineer (CON)/II, South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043 invites E-tender for the following work. Following tender has been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in**. The tender will be closed **at 12.00 hrs.** on due date. **e-Tender Notice No.: 4638-GRC-CE-C-II-20-2026, Date: 27.04.2026. Brief Description of work:** Construction of Officers Rest House, Camp Office and other Residential Accommodation in lieu of Structure to be dismentled falling in the alignment at Dangoaposi, Deojhar & Banspani in connection with proposed 3rd & 4th line between Dangoaposi-Jaroli station under the jurisdiction of Dy. CE/Con/Tatanagar of South Eastern Railway. **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 21.29 Crore. **Bid Security:** ₹ 42,59,000. **Completion Period:** 24 months. **Closing Date:** 29.05.2026. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tender for this item will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders. **(PR-99)**

AIR FORCE SCHOOL
Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560063
(Affiliated to CBSE)
Website: www.airforceschoolyel.net
e-mail: afschoolyel06386@gmail.com

VACANCIES

Applications are invited for Appointment of Teachers, Non-Teaching Staff and Helpers in Air Force School Yelahanka for the **Academic Session 2026-27** as per the following details:

- **PGT-** Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry & Biology
- **TGT-** Sanskrit • **Admin -** Clerk • **Special Educator**
- **Lab Attnd -** Science & Computer • **Helpers**
- **Part Time Instructors -** Sports Coach & Language Instructor

Note: 1) For details of eligibility criteria visit school website. 2) Blank application form available in the school website. 3) Duly filled Applications along with all supportive documents to reach Principal Air Force School Yelahanka Bangalore-560063 on or before **08 May 2026.** For further details: Call **8105501792 / 8619186045** OR visit school website OR visit Air Force School Yelahanka Bangalore – 560063.

The school Management Committee (SMC) reserves the right of cancelling the selection process at any stage even after the advertisement without any notice or assigning any reason. Eligible candidates will be individually informed for written test/interview.

Sd/- Executive Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that our client intends to purchase an immovable agricultural land being a portion of old Survey No. 17 measuring 01 Acre and new 228/3 measuring 01 Acre, situated at Kannuru Village, Bidarahalli - 3 Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore District which is morefully described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as "Schedule Property", from its rightful owner B S Suryaprakash son of M Seenappa and Prithvi Projects is the agreement holder.

Any person having any right, claim, title, interest in the Schedule Property or having any objection to the sale must notify the undersigned with documentary proof thereof within 07 days of this publication, failing which it shall be deemed that no person has any objection to our client purchasing the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
(description of the Schedule Property)

All that piece and parcel of immovable agricultural land bearing Survey No. 228/3 measuring 01 Acre, situated at Kannuru Village, Bidarahalli - 3 Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore District and is bounded as:

East by : Survey No. 17;
West by : Survey No. 17;
North by : Survey No. 228/2;
South by : Road and Survey No. 17.

Abhijit Atur, Advocate
M/s Agraa Legal,
3rd Floor, Shravanee Krishna Mansion, Ashoka Pillar Road, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru 560011, Ph: (080) 2962001/02
Email: admin@agraalegal.com

Date: 30.04.2026
Place : Bengaluru

www.timesascent.com
TIMES ascent
Catapult your career

दीनदयाल पत्तन प्राधिकरण / DEENDAYAL PORT AUTHORITY
AN ISO 9001:2008 & ISO 14001:2004 CERTIFIED PORT
(GA/PS/2022/Sr.DD(EDP)/2484 dated 15/ 04/2026)

विषय: सीधी भर्ती द्वारा नियमित आधार पर भरे जाने वाले निम्नलिखित पदों के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं:-

Sub: Applications are invited for the following post to be filled by Direct Recruitment on Regular Basis:-

वरिष्ठ उप निदेशक (ईडीपी)/ Senior Deputy Director (EDP) (Class-I)
[01 Post / (Scale of Pay of Rs. 60,000- 1,80,000 – IDA pattern)]

दीनदयाल पत्तन प्राधिकरण, जो कि पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के प्रशासनिक नियंत्रण के अंतर्गत भारत का एक १ प्रमुख महापत्तन है, पात्र और इच्छुक उम्मीदवारों से उपर्युक्त वरिष्ठ उप निदेशक (ईडीपी) पद के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है, जिसे सीधी भर्ती द्वारा नियमित आधार पर भरा जाएगा।

The Deendayal Port Authority, India's No. 1 Major Port under the administrative control of Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Govt. of India, invites applications from eligible and interested candidates for the above mentioned post of Senior Deputy Director (EDP), to be filled by Direct Recruitment on regular basis.

सम्पूर्ण विज्ञापन, आवेदन पत्र एवं अन्य विवरण के लिए कृपया दीनदयाल पत्तन प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट www.deendayalport.gov.in के रिक्रूटमेंट सेक्शन पर जाएं।

For complete advertisement, application form & other details please refer Recruitment Section of Deendayal Port Authority's website at www.deendayalport.gov.in

आवेदन की हार्ड कॉपी प्राप्त होने की अंतिम तिथि 01/06/2026 है।

Last date of submission of hard copy of application is 01/06/2026.

सचिव / Secretary
दीनदयाल पत्तन प्राधिकरण,
Deendayal Port Authority

NISM National Institute of Securities Markets
A Capacity Building Initiative of SEBI

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM) is a premier Institute established by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the Regulator for securities markets in India. Online applications are invited from professionally competent and self-motivated individuals for various Faculty and Non – Faculty staff posts as under:

Post	Areas of Proficiency	No of Posts
Faculty Positions		
Asst. Professor	Financial Economics with focus on International Finance and Forex markets, FinTech and Data Science, Quantitative Finance.	3
Assoc. Professor/ Asst. Professor	Commodities Markets.	1
Non - Faculty Positions		
GM - ITD	Overall development administration and monitoring of various processes within the IT Department. Project Management, Design and Development of online applications, etc.	1
AGM - Placement	Student placement strategy, corporate relations, campus recruitment & internships, industry/alumni engagement, career development initiatives, and placement analytics & reporting.	1
Manager/ AGM – Civil Engineering	Contractor empanelment, tendering, project management, and quality control; plus conceptualization, design validation, and cost estimation.	1
Manager/ AGM – Electrical Engineering	Execution of electro-mechanical services, including design coordination and quality control. Tendering, contractor management, billing, and timely project completion.	1
Asst. Manager to Manager	General administration / housekeeping & facilities management / HRD / ITD / certification/program coordination, simulation lab management.	11
Asst. Manager to Manager – Centre for Content Creation	Examination development / content development / administration / e-learning/LMS management / instructional designer / video editor.	6

Interested candidates may apply only on-line, latest by **May 20, 2026,** through the NISM website by clicking at **"Recruitment"** on NISM homepage and following the instructions. For full details, please visit NISM's website **www.nism.ac.in.**

Two more abandoned Siberian huskies rescued in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Two more Siberian huskies were traced on Thursday, a day after the rescue of five of the same breed following the shocking abandonment of dozens of them in a remote area near Patancheru earlier in April, **reports Amisha Rajani.**

"The ones we have traced now were taken in by passers-by who were animal lovers. With this, the number of rescued dogs has risen to seven. One was found dead due to extreme heat conditions," said Harsh Kishor B of Swan NGO. Volunteers from Swan and Aasra NGOs have been leading rescue efforts. They are hopeful of more Siberian huskies being found alive.

First big step: Isro validates comms links for Gaganyaan

Chethan.Kumar
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Isro has operationalised and validated parts of the communication and ground support network for the Gaganyaan mission, including systems linked to Amazon Web Services (AWS), marking a step in India's preparations for its first human spaceflight mission.

Isro has confirmed that the AWS network was operationalised and validated through "support to the SpaDeX (Space Docking Experiment) mission. The space agency said network operations of communication systems were also validated with the European Space Agency (ESA) ground station through a series of Radio Frequency Compatibility Tests.

Isro said end-to-end data flow checks for audio and video transmission were successfully carried out at the ESA ground station in Germany. The IDRSS-1 (first Indian Data Relay Satellite System) feeder stations have now been established at The Isro Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (Istrac) in Bengaluru and the spaceport in Sriharikota, with network configuration, testing and evaluation completed.

The agency added that data, audio and video transmission and reception were demonstrated using the GSAT satellite. As per Isro: "Terrestrial communication links have also been established between the Indian Naval Station and SHAR (in Sriharikota), and between the Gaganyaan Mission Control Centre in Bengaluru and the Gaganyaan Control Facility at SHAR. Links connecting these facilities with the Crew Module Recovery Centre in Delhi have also been tested."

In another development, Isro has signed a contract with the Swedish Space Corporation for ground station support for the first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission, while a deed of licence has been executed for setting up a ground station terminal at Australia's Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

The developments build on groundwork first reported by **TOI** in 2022, when Isro had carried out a proof-of-concept exercise to explore the use of AWS ground stations for telemetry, tracking and command (TTC) operations for Gaganyaan.

At the time, Isro had tested one of the AWS ground stations using the SARAL satellite. Then Isro chairman **S Somanath** had confirmed that the tests were aimed at evaluating whether AWS infrastructure could support Gaganyaan operations, though no final decision had been taken then.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BALLARI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH CENTRE, BALLARI.
Reg.No:205/1995-96-Recognized by Medical Council of India, New Delhi vide No:MCI-57(3)/79-Med/1912, Dtd.16-04-1979
e-mail-ids:directorbmcrcbellary@gmail.com,
website : https://vims.karnataka.gov.in

NO. BMCRC/GNL-3/Tender/2026-27 Date:29-04-2026

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The following works for the construction Civil Works as shown below at BMCRC, Ballari are invited under the K.T.P.P Act 1999-2000 on a two-bid system through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in of Government of Karnataka are invited. DME/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT77A pprox. amount Rs.51.20 Lakhs, Interested bidders are request to submit their bids on date:29.04.2026 to 13.05.2026upto5.00PM inthe above portal. Further details may be obtained in the below said website and www.bmcrc.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Dean & Director, BMCRC, Ballari

DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/105

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. संभाग द्वितीय उदयपुर मु. बाँसवाड़ा

क्रमांक : डी-139 दिनांक : 24.04.2026

निविदा संशोधन-03

निविदा सूचना संख्या 01/2026-27

NIB No. PWD2627A0028

इस कार्यालय के क्रमांक डी-17 दिनांक 02.04.2026 द्वारा जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या 01/EPC Mode/2026-27 में अंकित कार्य की तिथियों मे निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है तथा वित्त विभाग के परीपत्र क्रमांक प.4(9)वित्त/साविलोनि/2026 दिनांक 23.03.26 मे वर्णित सभी शर्तें उक्त निविदा मे प्रभावी रहेगी ।

विवरण	पूर्व में दिनांक	संशोधित दिनांक	निवदा की संशोधित लागत (GST रहीत)
ऑनलाइन निविदा आवेदन डाउनलोड करने की दिनांक	07 अप्रेल 2026 प्रात: 9:30 बजे से 27 अप्रेल 2026, अपराह्न 06:00 बजे तक	07 अप्रेल 2026 प्रात: 9:30 बजे से 06 मई 2026, सायं 06:00 बजे तक	40.47 करोड़ वित्त विभाग के परिपत्र के क्रमांक प.4(9)वित्त/साविलोनि / 2026 जयपुर दिनांक 23.03.2026 के तहत जीएसटी नियमानुसार पृथक से देय होगी।
ऑनलाइन निविदा जमा कराने की दिनांक	07 अप्रेल 2026 प्रात: 9:30 बजे से 27 अप्रेल 2026, अपराह्न 06:00 बजे तक	07 अप्रेल 2026 प्रात: 9:30 बजे से 06 मई 2026, सायं 06:00 बजे तक	
ऑनलाइन निविदा खोलने की दिनांक	28 अप्रेल, 2026 दोपहर 03:00 बजे	07 मई, 2026 दोपहर 03:00 बजे	

UBN:-PWD2627WLOB00104
निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी ।

Sd/-
(भिरूलाल मेणिया)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. संभाग द्वितीय उदयपुर, मुख्यालय बाँसवाड़ा

DIPR/C/7442/2026

Karnataka Public Work Department
(A Government of KarnatakaEnterprises) O/O Executive Engineer PWD Division, Hosapete, Dist:-Vijayanagara

No:EE/PWD/Dn/Hosapete/TND/ AE-1 /2026-27/262 Date:- 27.04.2026

Short Term E-Tender Notification

Tenders are invited by undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, PWD Division Hosapete, Vijayanagara Dist, for the works notified in the statement below. The bid shall be in One or Two Cover system namely technical bid and financial bid through KPP Portal, following the link https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sl. No	Work Indent No	Estimate Cost (Rs in Lakhs)	Sl. No	Work Indent No	Estimate Cost (Rs in Lakhs)
	RESERVE FOR SC				
1	PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT35857	16.00			
	RESERVE FOR ST Catogery				
2	PWD/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT20021	16.00			
	RESERVE FOR Catogery 2-A				
3	PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT35422	16.00	4	PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT35610	16.00
	RESERVE FOR Catogery-1				
5	PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT35545	32.00			
6	PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT35364	32.00	13	PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT35794	700.00
7	PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT33691	32.00	14	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT35153/Call-2	500.00
8	PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT35396	16.00	15	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT30938/Call-2	500.00
9	PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT35518	16.00	16	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 29669/Call-2	200.00
10	PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT35873	190.00	17	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 31368/Call-2	250.00
11	PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT35793	700.00	18	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 27818/Call-2	300.00
12	PWD/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT35805	475.00	19	PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT35397	32.00

1.Quarries of Tender On: **As Per kppp Portal.** Pre-Bid Meeting: **02.05.2026 @ 16.00 Hours.** 2.Last Date of Tender Submission On : **05.05.2026 @ 16.30 Hours.** 3.Tender Opening date On: **06.05.2026 @ 16.30 Hours.** 4.Financial Bid Opening Date: **As Per kppp Portal.**

Note: If any changes either in Tender date, Retender or any other conditions , Tenderers shall be viewed in kppp Portal, No Separate Advertisement / Notification will be published.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division Hosapete, Vijayanagara District.

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/56

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PWD CIRLCE KOTA

No. 353 **Short Term Notice Inviting Bid (NIT No. 01/2026-27)** Date :- 24.04.2026

Bid for Construction of Various Road work in Distt. Kota (9 Works) is Invited from interested bidders up to 06.00 PM of 08-05-2026 (Wedneshday). Other Particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rj.nic.in) of the Rajasthan State. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs.1209.73 Lacs.

UBN No. PWD2627WSOB00972 PWD2627WSOB00977 PWD2627WSOB00979
UBN No. PWD2627WSOB00981 PWD2627WSOB00982 PWD2627WSOB00983
UBN No. PWD2627WSOB00984 PWD2627WSOB00985 PWD2627WSOB00986

Sd/-
(J.P. Gupta)
Superintending Engineer
P.W.D. Circle Kota

DIPR/C/7541/2026

M.P. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(Government of Madhya Pradesh Undertaking)
SECRETARIAT FOR SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM
CIN : U51102MP1977SGC001392
21, Arera Hills, Bhopal-462011, M.P. (India)
Tel. : (91)755-2571830, 2575618, 3523555, 3523505
E-mail : helpdesk@mpidc.co.in, Website : www.invest.mp.gov.in
Ref. No.: MPIDC/LM/SWS-RFP/2026/NIT-04-03
No.52 /MPIDC/LM/NIT-04-03 Date : 30.04.2026

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR ALLOTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL PLOTS THROUGH E-BIDDING

Department of Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion (DIPIP), Government of Madhya Pradesh through MP Industrial Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of M.P. Undertaking) has invited **Online Tender cum Auction (E-forward auction)** for allotment of available Industrial Plots at **Ratlam.** District through **NIT-04-03.** The Process of which will start on the **https://www.mptenders.gov.in.** from 04.05.2026

1. To participate in e-bidding, it is necessary to have Class 3 Digital Signature. Detailed information about rules, procedure and plots etc. can also be viewed on MPIDC website- **https://invest.mp.gov.in**
2. Please refer to the Tender documents before proceeding with the application.
3. Corrigendum related to e-bidding process, if any, will not be published in the newspaper, it will be uploaded on **https://mptenders.gov.in** portal.

M.P. Madhyam/125575/2026 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact Number 9646123323)

Tender Inquiry No. PPR-11/2026 Dated: 29.04.2026

Chief Engineer/PP&R Organization, Shed No. D-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender under three part bid system for supply of electrical energy from interstate/intrastate sources viz. Generators, Traders having Valid Inter State Trading License issued by CERC for interstate trading of energy, intrastate trading license issued by PSERC for intrastate trading of energy, State Electricity Boards, State Electricity Utilities, States, IPPs & CPPs from 1st June 2026 to 31st July 2026. The link for the e-Bidding portal is www.mstcecommerce.com and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power (www.Powermin.nic.in) and PFC Consultancy Limited (www.pfcindia.com). For detailed NIT & tender specifications please refer to www.mstcecommerce.com from 29.04.2026 onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at www.mstcecommerce.com

C-549/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/11080

RAJASTHAN MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking), Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur-302005, India,
Phone No: 0141-2228066, 2228064, Website: www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in,
CIN : U24232RJ2011SGC035067, E-mail : edpssrmsc@rajasthan.gov.in

Ref No. : F.02 (218)/RMSCL/Proc./S&S/NIB-13/2026/1056 Dated :- 28/04/2026

Notice Inviting E-Bids

E-bids for rate contract cum empanelment for supply of following items are invited from eligible bidders:-

S. No.	Item Name/Description	Ref. No.	UBN	Estimated Value in Rs.	Last Time & Last date for bid submission
1.	Surgical & Sutures Items	F.02 (218)/RMSCL/Proc./S&S/NIB-13/2026/1055 Dated :- 28/04/2026	MSC2627GLRC00008	32.74 Cr.	13.05.2026 Up to 6.00 PM

Other particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in** and may be downloaded from there.

Executive Director (Procurement)
RMSCL

Raj.Samwad/C/26/1804

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH

TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Submission Schedule (Online)	Opening Technical Bid (Online)
	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - SWM Division MC		
1.	Strengthening of Storm Water Drainage System by providing and Laying of Additional SWD pipe line from the backside of maintenance booth Sector 15-D crossing through junction No. 24 (Roundabout of Sector 14, 15, 24 & 25) & Junction No. 31 (Roundabout of Sector 24, 25, 37 & 38) towards Sector 23 & 36 in N-Choe Chandigarh – (Re-invite). **Approximate Amount : Rs. 7,78,11,245/- Earnest Money : Rs. 15,56,225/- Time Period : 08 Months Tender Fee : Rs. 5,000/-**	01.05.2026 at 9:00 A.M To 11.05.2026 at 10:30 A.M	11.05.2026 at 11:00 A.M
	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Roads Division No.2		
2.	Providing and Fixing 80mm interlocking paver blocks on internal roads in Mauli Complex, Mauli Jagran, Chandigarh Est. Cost : Rs. 133.09 Lacs Earnest Money : Rs. 2,66,178/- Time Limit : 08 Months	29.04.2026 To 06.05.2026 upto 12.00 noon	06.05.2026 at 12.00 noon
3.	Re-Construction of Paver Blocks/PCC Tiles Foothpath infront of houses and around the Parks Sector 27 A, B, C, D, Chandigarh. Est. Cost : Rs. 62.51 Lacs Earnest Money : Rs. 1,25,016/- Time Limit : 04 Months	30.04.2026 To 07.05.2026 upto 12.00 noon	07.05.2026 at 12.00 noon
4.	Raising Kerb & Channel and Road Marking Work (Part-B) under the Work of Re-Carpeting of Various Roads falling under Road Sub Division No. 7, M.C., Chandigarh (V-4 Road Sector 33, V-5 Road Sector 32, V-5 Road Sector 33, V-6 Roads Sector 31 C&D, V-6 Roads Sector 33 C&D, Various Parkings Sector 32 & 33, SDM Road, Centra Mall Road and Mango Garden Road) Est. Cost : Rs. 139.86 Lacs Earnest Money : Rs. 2,79,725/- Time Limit : 06 Months	30.04.2026 To 07.05.2026 upto 12.00 noon	07.05.2026 at 12.00 noon
5.	Repair of road surfaces for Pot Holes/Patches by using ready mix bituminous cold material for various roads under the jurisdiction of Roads Division No.2, M.C. Chandigarh. (Ch. to Maintenance of Roads). (Revenue Head) (For 4 Months) Est. Cost : Rs. 63.74 Lacs Earnest Money : Rs. 1,27,480/- Time Limit : 04 Months	01.05.2026 To 08.05.2026 upto 12.00 noon	08.05.2026 at 12.00 noon

Note :- 1) Tender Notice alongwith detailed terms and conditions is available/uploaded on website at www.chandigarh.gov.in or etenders.chd.nic.in

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SWM Division, Room No. 612, 6th Floor, New Deluxe Building, MC Sector-17, Chandigarh email id : mcc.swm2020@gmail.com and Roads Division No.2, Room No.304, M.C. Chandigarh

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Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department
Office of the Executive Engineer, Mysuru Division, Mysuru.
E-mail: eepwdmys21@gmail.com
Phone No. & Fax No. 0821-242081

IFT No. 04/2026-27 Dt.27.04.2026
ITEM WISE TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department has published item wise Tender notification for **Improvements to road from Udburu gate to udburu village high school under Melukote road (NH-47) to gandatturu road from ch 39.58 km to 75.47 km, (SH-212) in mysuru taluk, Mysuru district.(Working Chainage 67.70 km to 69.57 km).** work approved under H/A: **5054-03-337-0-17-154 SH Road - Improvements** with KW-4 Conditions & Regulations with Two cover systems. The **Amount Put to Tender is Rs.534.23 Lakhs and EMD amount is Rs.8.01 Lakhs.** Pre bid Meeting will be held in the undersigned office **at 11.00 A.M on 15.05.2026.** Tenders shall be Submitted in KPP-Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 27.04.2026 to 29.05.2026 within 17.00 PM.** Period for completion 08 months (including monsoon) Only eligible KPWD Contractor Registered in the KPP-Portal shall participate.

More details can be obtained from the office of the under Signed during office hours. Any amendments or modifications in tender notification will be published in KPP-Portal Only.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Public Work Department Mysuru Division, Mysuru

DIPR/DD/MYS/114/KSMCA/103/2026-27

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-10/1028/2026-27 Date: 30.04.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tenders under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement portal from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following works :

Name of the Works : 1) Formation of 9mtr wide connecting road from Road No. 5 to Utility area 3 and construction of RCC Box Drain, RCC Box Culvert & Compound wall to Water supply area at Sarathi Kurubarahalli 2nd Stage Industrial Area, Harihara Taluk, Davanagere District. **2)** Formation of 18m wide roads (road no. 1, 2 & 3) including asphalting, construction of RCC side drains, inspection chambers, spur culverts & Water supply & valve works in Plot no. 665 at Vasanthanarasapura Industrial Area 3rd Phase, Tumakuru District. **3)** Formation of 18m wide roads between Plot no. 338 & 345 (L-375.00m) and plot no. 318 & 322 (L-395.00m) including asphalting, construction of RCC side drains, inspection chambers, RCC Culverts & Water Supply Pipeline at Sira Industrial Area, Phase-1, Tumakuru District.

The last date and time for receipt of tender is : **14.05.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/458/NR/2026-27

THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Hutti - 584 115, Raichur Dist., Karnataka State. Ph: (08537)276339/275463
e-Mail: material276339@gmail.com website: www.huttigold.karnataka.gov.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO.02/26-27 Dt: 01.05.2026
(Through KPP Portal only)

Tender is invited by "The I/c. Dy. General Manager (Materials)" for the following Tenders as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Description	EMD in Rs.
1	Procurement of GM Wheel Valves 25mm & 50mm. **HGML/2026-27/IND0476**	50,000/-
2	Procurement of Crusher and SAG and Ball Mill Plant Conveyor Belts. **HGML/2025-26/IND0417/CALL-2**	1,22,000/-
3	Procurement of Various sizes of GI Flanges. **HGML/2026-27/IND0479**	46,000/-
4	Procurement of Sports items for HGML Institute. **HGML/2026-27/IND0482**	25,000/-
5	Supply of Allen Bradley PLC controller and IO modules for Atlas Copco compressor. **HGML/2026-27/IND0478**	23,000/-
6	Supply of Pneumatic Torque Wrench. **HGML/2025-26/IND0414/CALL-2**	26,000/-
7	Providing Human resource Services (Mechanical, Electrical and Electronic / Instrumentation Engineers) to HGML Units. **HGML/2026-27/SE0093**	93,000/-
8	Service Job for replacement of SAG Mill Main Trunnion bearings at both Feed end and Discharge end. **HGML/2026-27/SE0092**	59,000/-

Calendar of events: (1) Last date for receipt of tender: **18.05.2026 at 4.00 PM. (2)** Opening of Technical Bid on: **20.05.2026 at 10.00 AM.** For further details interested bidders are advised to log on to website **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office of undersigned during working hours. For participating in the above tender bidder needs to be registered in KPP portal.

Sd/- The I/c Deputy General Manager (Materials)

LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA

34001/139/2627

E-mail ID : cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in
cebuildings@rediffmail.com
Tel. (0674)-2391523

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

File No- B-IV-H-(NHM)-06/2025 Lr. No.- 14975 / Bhubaneswar, 30th April, 2026

CANCELLATION OF TENDER

Name of the Work : **Construction of 50 Bedded Critical Care Block Building at MKCG Medical College and Hospital, Berhampur**

The bid invited vide **Bid Identification No. CE-Bldg-II-01/2026-27** is here by cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, Buildings-II (I/c), Odisha, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-34001/34117/1/26-27/0011

32001/130/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
e-Procurement Notice
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
CENTRAL MINOR IRRIGATION CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR
Phone-0674-2540559, Mail ID:cmic.bbsr@gmail.com
No. 684 /CMIC Date: 30.04.2026

The Additional Chief Engineer, Central Minor Irrigation Circle, Bhubaneswar on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites **percentage rate bids in Double cover only in ONLINE mode** for the works detailed in the table from **"B" & "A"** class Contractors registered with the State Government and contractors of equivalent Grade / Class registered with Central Government/M.E.S./Railways for execution of civil works on production of definite proof from the appropriate authority. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the works.

e-Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION NO-ACE-CMIC-1/2026-27

1	Name of the works	As per Annexure to this bid notice.
2	Total No. of works	2 (Two) nos
3	Estimated Cost	Rs. 186.70 lakh & Rs.190.2 Lakh Approximately (Detail list of work Annexed)
4	Class of Contractor	Class "B" & "A"
5	Period of completion	As Mentioned against Work.
6	Date & time of Availability of Bid Document in the portal for online bidding.	05.05.2026 at 10.00 AM to 19.05.2026 up to 5.30 P.M.
7	Last date/Time for receipt of Bid only in ONLINE.	19.05.2026 up to 5.30 P.M.
8	Date/Time of Opening of Technical Bid.	20.05.2026 at 11.30 A.M. at Office of the Addl. C.E Central M.I Circle, Bhubaneswar through Web site
9	Date/Time of Opening of Financial Bid	To be intimated online after offline evaluation of Technical Bids.
10	Date of Transparent Lottery (If cases arises)	To be intimated through mail after offline evaluation of Financial Bids.
11	Name & Address of the Officer Inviting the Bid.	Additional Chief Engineer, Central M.I. Circle, Bhubaneswar, Plot No- A-8/2, Po: Bhoinagar, Bhubaneswar PIN: 751022 Dist: Khurda. Ph:0674-2540559
12	Mode of Payment of Bid Cost	Online

Further details can be seen from the "e" Procurement Portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer,
Central M.I Circle, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-32001/32047/1/26-27/0001

4001/52/2627

ODISHA POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha undertaking)
AT-IB THERMAL POWER STATION, PO : BANAHARPALI
DIST : JHARSUGUDA, ODISHA-768234
Phone No : (Land Line No. 06645-289232/221/355/356/245)

Expression of Interest

OPGC invites sealed bids from bonafide and financially sound Registered Agencies /Firms /Companies for execution of the following Works & Supplies for its Thermal Power Plant at Banharpali.

Expression of Interest : ITPS/CC-22/2026-27/01, Date : 30.04.2026

SL. No	DESCRIPTION	Date of receipt & Submission/ Opening of EOI
1.	Expression of Interest (EOI) : Purchase of ash (Fly ash & Pond ash) from OPGC, IB Thermal Power Station At Banharpali, Jharsuguda, Odisha.	Upto 15:00 HRS on 11.05.2026/ 15:30 HRS Onwards on 11.05.2026.

The detailed EOI along with Terms and Conditions are available for download at OPGC website at **www.opgc.co.in**.

Addenda/Corrigenda/Extensions, if any, will be notified on the OPGC website only and will not be published in any other media. Interested companies or entities may visit OPGC website for the tender timeline and other details.

Manoj Pradhan
DGM-Contracts

OIPR-4001/4067/1/26-27/0001

25001/60/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF
RURAL WORKS, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
Letter No: 13642, Dated : 20.04.2026 Email i.d.: crew_bbsr@yahoo.com

Notice inviting Request for Proposal under EPC Contract
(RFP-Online - CE (Buildings & Bridges)-01 / 2026-27 dt. 18.04.2026)

1. Name of the work : As mentioned in NIT
2. Total No. of works : 02 (Two) nos.
3. Period of completion : 30 Calendar Months
4. Other details : www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Procurement Officer	Bid identification No	No. of bridge works	Availability of tender online for bidding	
			From	To
Chief Engineer, Buildings & Bridges, Rural Works, Odisha, Bhubaneswar	RFP Online - CE-Buildings & Bridges-01/ 2026-27	02 (Two) Nos	04.05.2026 at 10.00 A.M.	03.06.2026 Up to 5.00 P.M.

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents, which will be available in website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Buildings & Bridges),
Rural Works, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-25001/25123/1/26-27/0003

Available at

Available at Exclusive Brand Outlet

Available at Multi Brand Outlet

Available at Large Format Stores

Dipak.Dash@timesofindia.com

No stop, no queue: Tolling gets a free-flow makeover

Multi-Lane Free Flow system, set to be implemented from today, will allow vehicles to cruise through toll plazas, promising faster travel and lower congestion. **TOI** takes a test drive

It's 1.15pm on Wednesday at the Mundka toll plaza in Delhi on the newly opened greenfield Urban Extension Road-II. To the surprise of many drivers, the boom barriers across 16 toll lanes are raised. Vehicles slow down, expecting the barriers to fall for FASTag-based toll deduction. Instead, toll attendants wave them through without stopping. Within minutes, there isn't a single vehicle waiting at any lane.

Most commuters felt they had a free drive across the toll plaza. But they soon got messages —the toll had been deducted from their FASTag wallet.

This is because the newly built toll plaza is one of the dozen plazas where Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) — or barrierless tolling — is under testing. The system is scheduled to go live by mid-May, the second such plaza in the country.

MLFF is first going live at Choryasi toll plaza on NH-48 between Surat and Bharuch in Gujarat from May 1 (Friday).

TOI crossed the Mundka toll plaza on Wednesday, while MLFF testing was on. The taxi crossed the plaza at 60kmph without stopping. An hour later, there was a message of the toll deducted from the FASTag wallet.

"We have been carrying out testing of the system during different periods of the day, including at peak hours, to assess the performance of gadgets and sensors installed at each lane," said a person involved in the project. "And now, it's ready to go live this month. People will get the toll deduction message instantly after crossing the plaza."

On The Fast Track

So far, IHMCL (Indian Highways Management Company Limited) — NHAI's arm for tolling and highway management — has bid out the contracts for MLFF tolling for 17 toll plazas, including at Gharaunda in Haryana on the Delhi-Amritsar highway, Manoharpura, Shahjahanpur and Daulatpura in Rajasthan on Delhi-Jaipur highway, Nemili in Tamil Nadu, Kesapalli in Andhra Pradesh and Chalakwadi in Maharashtra.

To fast-track this rollout, IHMCL has invited bids for 108 toll plazas in bundles under NHAI's regional offices of Delhi-NCR, Jaipur, Odisha, Gandhinagar and Hyderabad regions.

Economic Survey 2025-26 had projected rollout of MLFF tolling across all National Highways that are four-lane or more, and all high-speed corridors, by March 2029. But officials say they are hopeful of achieving the target earlier, considering its benefit for commuters, highway operators and govt, as it eliminates waiting time and congestion at plazas, plugs toll revenue leaks, and makes it unnecessary to build toll booth structures.

NHAI chairman Santosh Kumar Yadav said barrierless tolling was now a necessity for the comfort of commuters, "particularly as we build wider highways, economic corridors, and expressways." "With MLFF tolling, there will be no waiting at toll plazas and no waste of time or fuel. This will help reduce logistics costs," he added.

"In the current tolling system, at least 20 seconds is required for completing the process of vehicle detection, reading the FASTag, completion of transaction and lifting the boom barrier," said an expert, involved in the MLFF projects. "But, in MLFF, you can cross the tolling point at 80-85kmph. So, we will not need extra lanes to accommodate a large number of vehicles at toll plazas, and there will be no waiting for any vehicle."

Glitches... And Solutions

At some places, such as in Choryasi and Gharaunda, new overhead gantries have been erected across highways, a little away from existing toll plazas, to install high-powered cameras that can capture registration numbers; advanced radars, scanners and LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) systems that can capture details of vehicles; and to complete the process of deducting toll from FASTag wallets automatically. In the case of Mundka, the gantry has been erected above the existing toll lanes, and the gadgets have been installed for seamless tolling.

Experts involved in the month-long tests of MLFF at different toll plazas said there have been some instances of cameras not being able to read a car's number plate — due to defacing, or because the owners had hung ribbons or lemons.

"In such cases, the system traces the registration number from the FASTag (if the owner provided it while obtaining the tag). There is no other option to trace the number of such vehicles. But we have rarely seen any truck or heavy commercial vehicle resorting to such practice," said an expert.

As for those who cross plazas without paying — because of a faulty FASTag, having low balance, and for not having a FASTag — the govt has a mechanism in place. In such cases, since the absence of physical barriers makes it difficult to physically catch the vehicles, IHMCL will issue e-notices, with details, to the owners of such vehicles, asking them to clear the due using an online link. If they fail to pay the toll within 72 hours, the pending amount will be doubled, a source said.

Failure to pay will result in denial of a no-objection certificate (NOC) at the time of registration renewal, change of ownership, transfer, and while issuing a fitness certificate.

Such offenders won't be able to avail themselves of several other vehicle-related services until they clear all dues.

Similarly, for faulty toll deduction, vehicle owners can lodge a complaint on the website within three days, and the deducted amount will be credited to the FASTag wallet after verification of claims.

"Since the MLFF system will be rolled out gradually, we expect commuters to be aware that they can't go scot-free for not paying the user fee. Any subsequent toll plaza on a corridor, even ones that are yet to get an MLFF system, can catch such vehicles," an official said.

Pics: Plyal Bhattacharjee

Passing toll plaza at 60kmph: At Mundka, test vehicles crossed the plaza without having to stop at boom barriers to pay the toll

The key benefit of MLFF is that there's no wastage of time lifting boom barriers. This reduces congestion, fuel wastage and pollution

WHAT IS MLFF?

It's a barrierless tolling system, where vehicles don't need to stop or slow down at toll plazas. Toll is automatically collected using FASTag and vehicle number recognition systems

BENEFITS

- No congestion, no waiting
- No need to build toll plazas
- No revenue leaks, as there is no human interference
- Drivers save fuel because there's no idling

Future toll plazas (Choryasi, pic left) won't have dedicated lanes. RFID readers fixed on gantries will be able to read FASTags and deduct toll

ZIP-ZAP-ZOOM: SOME COUNTRIES THAT HAVE BARRIERLESS TOLL COLLECTION SYSTEMS IN PLACE

Where	What	When
Singapore	Electronic Road Pricing (ERP)	1998
Canada, Ontario	Highway 407 ETR, Greater Toronto Area	1997
Australia, Melbourne	CityLink	2000
Chile, Santiago	Urban motorway network / Televía TAG	2004–2005
United Kingdom	Dartford Crossing "Dart Charge"	2014
Portugal	Electronic-only motorway tolls, including former SCUT roads	Around 2010

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CONTRAPUNTO

Relying on govt to protect your privacy is like asking a peeping tom to install your window blinds

– JOHN PERRY BARLOW

For Your Eyes Only

What you watch on TV should be nobody's business. Consumers must be protected

Your smart TV is a mole. As **TOI** reported yesterday, it collects snapshots of everything you watch and hear, and sends them to 'data brokers', so that they can refine your profile, and sell it to advertisers. Are we surprised? Yes, although we shouldn't be, knowing that our phones – and the apps on them – tablets and laptops are all part of the 'surveillance economy'. Smart ACs, those with voice command functions, can be easily hacked to listen in on bedroom talk. Smart cars keep a GPS log of every place you've been to. Why should smart TVs be less devious?

More than surprise, there's a sense of betrayal. We weren't told that, while bingeing on shows, we'd never be alone in the room. That once every 500 milliseconds – 7,200 times an hour – our TV would relay info about shows and ads we've sat through. And for what? That's the easier answer. Your family's old 'idiot box' TV was a one-time purchase. The manufacturer didn't earn a paisa from you after the sale. But by sharing your viewing habits, and tastes, with advertisers daily, your smart TV becomes a perpetual revenue stream. As Bill Baxter, TV maker Vizio's former CTO, said in 2019, this kind of spying – automatic content recognition or ACR – is the reason those 65-inch TVs have become so cheap. Manufacturers don't need to recover their costs upfront. Last year, the global market for ACR data was worth $4.2bn. By 2034, it's expected to touch $23bn – an yearly growth of 21%.

Should we be grateful for ACR then, view it as a subsidy? No. Firstly, because there's no subsidy. You actually pay more overall – a lump sum first, followed by a pay-with-your-privacy model. Secondly, ACR is a secret clause. It's not disclosed to you at the time of sale. Wouldn't you pay more for a TV that didn't track you? Cheaper hardware is no justification for invasion of privacy. Just as a discount doesn't entitle a hotel to install cameras in its bathrooms. Plus, this kind of profiling is risky when the data flows to foreign servers, and possibly govts. Viewing habits can reveal political leanings, and expose you to targeted online influence. That's why it's important to curb ACR use. It shouldn't be turned on by default, and users should have an easy way to turn it off, even if they clicked 'yes' at some point.

Document The Horror

Nothing moves without paperwork. Why then is getting documents such an ordeal?

Odisha bank branch officials, who demanded proof-of-death of a woman from her brother, found a way around the lack of documents speedily enough, when he carried her skeletal remains to the bank. And that is the single point that needs emphasis. Compliance with rules is one thing, refusal to address the reality of document scarcity, and poor documentation across large tracts of India, quite another. In this case, the 52-year-old in Odisha's Keonjhar had made multiple visits to the bank, which refused to budge without 'documentation'. Again and again, we witness the wretched circumstances people land up in, because of an over-emphasis on documentation, which disregards ground truths.

Documents to show eligibility – whether for claims to deceased kin's savings, or right to be on a voter roll – are needed. But, why does getting the simplest of documents remain a bureaucratic nightmare?

Procuring documents is an ordeal. A name-change or a property deed, a duplicate academic certificate or proof of birth/death can be notoriously complicated. A missing certificate can block school admission. A misspelt name can stop a person from opening a bank account. Smallest corrections need affidavits & notaries & repeated visits to offices – or money to middlemen, for whom conjuring paperwork is livelihood. Document-seekers must jump through endless hoops. Even digitisation delivered limitedly. Digitised, valid documents can be rendered incorrect, because somewhere in between, spelling errors were introduced, half addresses were uploaded, photos incorrectly mapped. Incorrect fields crop up on screens that aren't on the physical document. Recall how NREG claimants lost earnings over mismatched biometrics, and non-recorded attendance. Red tape has no accountability. In Bengal, 27L people who had documents couldn't vote. Frustration drove a man in Odisha to dig up his sister's remains. That bankers in Keonjhar quickly found a solution, shows that the delay, and runaround, was just bureaucratic tyranny.

General ignorance

When lack of knowledge itself becomes a form of inverse knowledge

Jug Suraiya

Should general knowledge be renamed general ignorance? According to Global Language Monitor, a new word to describe a new thing, in fields as diverse as science and slang, is coined every 98 minutes, resulting in over 5,400 additions annually.

If this were not information overload enough, terms that have long been and continue to be in common usage are being revealed to be factoids, or manufactured facts, like fake news.

This was brought home to me recently when a reader, Harmeet, forwarded to me a post, billed as The World's Easiest Quiz, with PS that passing requires only 3 correct answers – "Only total duffers will fail!!"

How long did the Hundred Year War between England and France last? Where are Panama hats made? From which animal do we get catgut? In which month is Russia's October Revolution observed? What is a camel's hairbrush made of? Canary Islands in the Pacific are named for which animal? What was King George VI's first name? What colour is a purple finch? Where are Chinese gooseberries grown? What is the colour of Black Box in a commercial aircraft?

jugular*vein*

The answers: The Hundred Year War lasted 116 years, with time taken off to catch the latest episode of GoT. Panama hats are made in Ecuador. Catgut is got not from felines but from sheep and horses. Russians observe 1917 October Revolution in Nov, the time shift caused by changing from the old calendar to the new.

A camel's hairbrush is made of squirrel fur, Canary Islands are named not after little yellow birds but dogs, George VI's first name was Albert, Al to pals. Purple finches are crimson, Chinese gooseberries come from New Zealand, and a plane's Black Box is orange.

I scored a perfect zero, which makes me a prime duffer, two exclamation marks and all. Thanks to such verbal misdirection, the more ignorant we remain, the less likely are we to be wrong.

Or, as Plato put it, only I know because I know I know nothing.

Editor's note: the writer confirms his perfect ignorance by ascribing to Plato the famous quotation from Socrates.

We Make Bats, We Don't Call The Shots

Sports goods manufacturing in India has huge economic potential. Yet, Pakistan's Sialkot outperforms us. For more clusters like Jalandhar & Meerut, policies, investments & infra need to happen in tandem

Sanjeet Singh & Ashish Dhawan

India's recent World T20 championship, was only the latest reminder of how sport now commands global attention on a scale few other things can. And Fifa World Cup football is an even grander spectacle, whose shots will soon thunder around the world. Behind the spectacle, billions of dollars of footballs, cricket bats, training gear, protective equipment, and athletic infra move through international supply chains each year, produced in specialised manufacturing clusters that most fans have never heard of.

India has such clusters. And they are hiding a remarkable, if underexploited, story. The towns of Jalandhar and Meerut, together, form the backbone of India's sports equipment industry, their origins tracing back to the skilled artisans who resettled there after Partition.

Walk through Jalandhar's Basti Sheikh locality today, and you'll find workshops producing footballs that have been kicked around in European leagues, and inflatable balls that carry the "Made in India" stamp at the Fifa World Cup. Meerut, meanwhile, is home to a cluster that supplies a majority of the cricket bats used on international pitches – the same hand-crafted English willow blades wielded by Test players from Australia to West Indies.

These are not cottage industries: they represent deep generational expertise that global buyers quietly depend on.

And yet, taken together, India accounts for only around 0.5% of global sports equipment supply. This is a country of 1.4bn people, with one of the world's largest and fastest-growing sporting populations. The gap between our sporting ambitions, and our manufacturing footprint, could not be more stark.

There's much more than pride at stake. Large-scale employment, a diversified manufacturing base, and accelerated export growth all depend on closing that gap. Recent Union and state govt policies have underlined the importance of this goal, through sector reforms, production incentives, and investment in industrial infra. While electronics and automobiles have dominated the narrative, durable industrial growth will also depend on sectors that combine strong domestic demand with export potential.

Sports equipment manufacturing is precisely such an opportunity – and its time has come. Consider three reasons why the case for a structured policy push is now compelling.

First, the sector is both jobs-rich and export-hungry. According to Annual Survey of Industries, sports manufacturing generates roughly 25 jobs per crore rupees of investment – second only to apparel and footwear. Global trade in sports equipment alone is estimated at $50bn annually. China commands nearly half of all exports. Pakistan's Sialkot, responsible for roughly 70% of the world's hand-stitched footballs, and exporting sports goods worth over $350mn in a year, outperforms India's entire sports manufacturing sector.

Vietnam and Indonesia are catching up too, each steadily absorbing orders from global brands diversifying away from China. India, with far greater scale, skill depth, and sectoral overlap with textiles, leather,

Image: AI

plastics, and light engineering, has been a bystander in a race it should be leading.

Second, the timing is strategically aligned with India's growing sporting ambitions. India will host Commonwealth Games 2030, and is simultaneously pursuing a bid for Olympics 2036. Hosting mega sporting events requires large volumes of specialised equipment across disciplines – from athletics infra to sportswear to training accessories. Importing the majority of that would impose avoidable fiscal costs, and squander a rare moment of domestic demand concentration.

The Li Ning story after Beijing 2008 Olympics, shows what is possible when industrial policy and sporting ambition are pointed in the same direction: a domestic brand transformed into a global competitor, on the back of the Games' visibility. India should be writing a similar playbook now, by showcasing a range of made in India products at the games that are second to none in quality and price.

Third, rising domestic participation is restructuring demand in India's favour. The past decade has brought a genuine cultural shift – organised sports, recreational fitness, private academies, and govt-backed grassroots programmes, have collectively enlarged the market for sports goods in ways that reduce risk for manufacturers, and underpin export competitiveness. Global supply chains, still scarred by pandemic-era disruptions, are actively looking for a credible China+1 partner. India's established cluster base, cost-competitive labour, and deepening domestic demand make the proposition attractive.

The hard part is for India to get its rising tide in order. Industry consultations suggest that Indian manufacturers face a meaningful cost disadvantage versus competing geographies, driven by higher raw material costs, elevated logistics expenses, and the prohibitive cost of obtaining international certifications – a particular barrier in a sector where Fifa, ICC, and BWF approvals are prerequisites, not nice-to-haves.

These pressures are compounded by the absence of anchor brands capable of generating scale, facilitating technology transfer, and building long-term buyer confidence.

Addressing this will require targeted action on both sides of the ledger: rationalising input costs, investing in cluster infra and modern logistics, and establishing internationally accredited certification facilities within India. Equally important is a coherent brand-building strategy – one that strengthens domestic labels in high-volume sports, while attracting global partnerships in emerging segments.

India's manufacturing ambitions are often expressed through the language of mega-factories and frontier technologies. Those investments are critical. But broad-based industrial growth will also be built on sectors that combine labour intensity, export potential, and rising domestic consumption.

Sports equipment sits firmly at that intersection. If the coming decade is to be one in which India not only hosts the world's biggest sporting events, but also supplies the equipment that powers them, then the case for bringing Jalandhar and Meerut – and the talent they represent – into the centre of India's industrial strategy has never been stronger.

Singh is senior adviser, Niti Aayog, and Dhawan is founder-CEO, The Convergence Foundation

Money Heists: Bad Guys Adapt, So Must Good Guys

RBI has proposed sound safeguards for digital payments. But if these are to work, real-time intelligence infrastructure has to provide the real judgement, with static rules serving as backstops

Krishnan Ranganathan

RBI's new discussion paper on "safeguards in digital payments" is a welcome attempt to address Authorised Push Payment (APP) fraud – scams where customers, under pressure or deception, authorise payments that rob them. But if these proposals are to mature into workable safeguards, the next draft will need to answer a set of harder questions about design, proportionality, and implementation.

UPI volumes and values are vast, and fraud has risen with equal ambition. Most of it isn't a Bond-villain hack of core systems but social engineering: phone calls, romance scams, deepfakes of distressed relatives, all designed to persuade the victim to press "pay" of their own free will. RBI's instinct is to add friction: delays, ceilings, extra approvals, and a big red OFF switch. That instinct is understandable. Friction can buy time, interrupt impulse, and reduce losses. But it is also blunt: it slows legitimate users, while sophisticated fraudsters improvise.

The paper already recognises many first-order downsides. The more important task now is to ensure that the final design does not leave second-order gaps unresolved.

One-hour pause needs a life cycle, not just a timer | The first proposal is a mandatory one-hour lag on person-to-person transfers above ₹10,000. RBI is right to see value in a "pause" for suspicious payments, and it is also right to recognise that users may be induced to bypass it. The harder question is what happens once a bypass becomes persistent.

If whitelisting is permitted, the design should not assume that a "trusted" payee remains low-risk indefinitely. It needs a life cycle: expiry, review, and the ability to revoke. Second issue is that the effectiveness of the lag may depend on what happens beyond the originating bank. The case for the lag is thus strongest when paired with shared intelligence and rapid inter-bank coordination, rather than treated as a self-contained solution.

A sensible final design would preserve thresholds as triggers while tying the actual delay to risk signals such as first-time payees, unusual devices, account age, or beneficiary alerts.

Trusted persons need legal and operational guardrails | Proposal for a pre-registered "trusted person" for certain high-value transfers, is clearly motivated by protection, not paternalism. But mandatory third-party approval for broad customer categories raises questions that a final framework will need to confront more directly.

One is legal. Indian law generally begins from the presumption of adult capacity, which suggests caution before creating a system in which a third party can effectively control transactions. Second is operational. Any model like this needs answers for ordinary failure cases: what if the trusted person is unavailable, conflicted, coercive, or simply wrong? Without fallback routes, a protective layer can become a source of impasse.

That argues for a narrower and more defensible starting point: opt-in use, trusted contacts before trusted approvers, and stronger legal scaffolding if veto powers are ever formalised.

Shadow credit needs due process, not just discretion | Proposal to cap annual credits into low-credit-turnover accounts, and place excess inflows into "shadow credit", is an understandable attempt to disrupt mule-account economics. RBI is also right to recognise that this may inconvenience legitimate users. But if the idea proceeds, the key issue is procedural discipline.

A framework that lets funds remain blocked until a bank is "satisfied" invites inconsistency unless the term is anchored by minimum standards: what documents may be asked for, how quickly the bank must ask, how long it has to decide, whether partial release is possible, and what appeal route exists. Those details will determine whether the tool is experienced as targeted risk control or arbitrary administrative power.

A flat ₹25L ceiling is easy to administer, but crude across regions, occupations and income patterns. Thresholds should be supplemented by anomaly detection, which spots behaviour inconsistent with the account's profile.

Kill switch must match its promise | It is probably the most intuitively useful idea in the paper. Customers in distress need a simple way to stop digital outflows quickly. But here too, the final framework will depend on scope and communication.

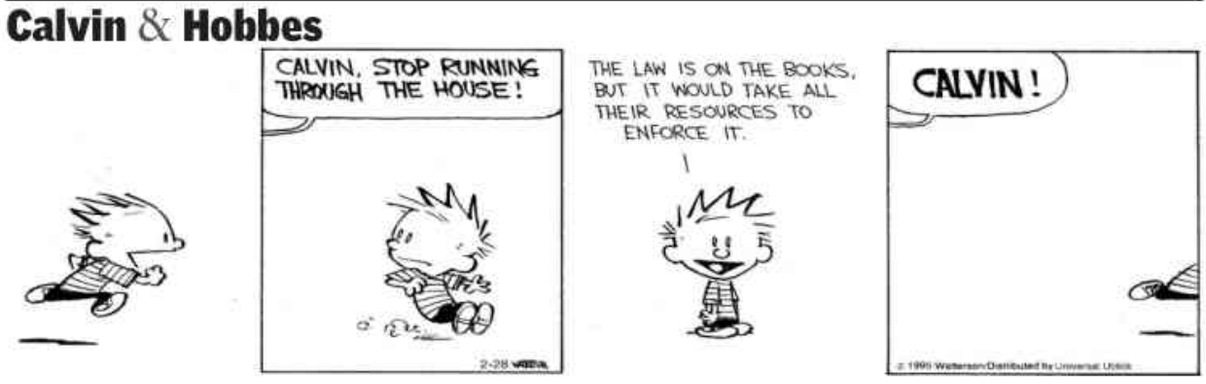
If certain debits, such as mandates or standing instructions, remain outside the switch, that may be justifiable for continuity reasons. But the exception cannot remain implicit; otherwise the product promise will exceed the product reality.

There is also a case for thinking through misuse. A control designed for emergencies can itself become part of a scam script unless activation and reactivation are carefully designed. If reactivation is cumbersome, the victim may end up both robbed and locked out, the switch then working better for the fraudster than for the customer.

Broad lesson is that thresholds, by themselves, are not enough. Fraud is adaptive. Safeguards must be too. Otherwise India may end up with the world's fastest payment rails, while still leaving fraudsters with the smoothest commute.

The writer is former executive director, Nomura India

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacred*space*

The mind is careful, suspicious, he advances little by little. He advises "Be careful, protect yourself" Whereas love says, "Let yourself go!" The mind is strong, never falls, while love hurts itself, falls into ruins. But isn't it in ruins that we mostly find the treasures?

Shams Tabrizi

Buddha Purnima: Towards Experiential Wisdom

Vikas Bishnoi & Vipul Anekant

On Buddha Purnima, when the full moon illuminates the night sky, we commemorate the birth, enlightenment, and parinirvan of Siddharth Gautam, and the radical liberation of human inquiry from the chains of dogma. Buddhism stands as a singular philosophical tradition that refuses to sacralise belief. Unlike many religious traditions that demand faith, devotion, or unquestioning acceptance, Buddhism turns the very act of believing into an object of scrutiny. Its invitation is austere, and profoundly modern: test everything, including the Buddha's teachings. Even subtle, subconscious adherence to any concept, Buddhist or otherwise, is questioned. There is no blasphemy here, no sacrilege, because the Buddha never demands devotion to unexamined propositions.

Buddha's epistemological courage with crystalline precision is audacious: "Do not believe anything merely because it is spoken by the Buddha, or because it feels right, or because you revere the teacher. Believe only that which you have verified through your own experience." This maxim is not peripheral; it is central. This philosophy manifests most profoundly in *Bhavana-maya panna*, experiential wisdom. Such wisdom arises through meditation, particularly vipassana, where insight is not received secondhand but realised within.

Unlike *sutamaya panna*, wisdom gained from listening or *cintamaya panna*, wisdom derived from intellectual reflection, *bhavana-maya panna* is a direct, personal apprehension of reality. There is no intermediary – no deity, scripture, teacher, priest, God or metaphysical construct can substitute for this intimate knowing. The middleman dissolves. No one stands between the seeker and truth.

THE SPEAKING TREE

Buddhism's intellectual courage extends further. It eschews metaphysics, sidestepping perennial philosophical puzzles in favour of pragmatic inquiry. Buddha famously maintained a noble silence on the existence of God, leaving room for rational autonomy rather than theological subservience. Like Jainism and Taoism, Buddhism is a creatorless/godless religion. The problem of evil renders a benevolent, omnipotent, and omniscient God rationally incoherent, considering observed suffering. Buddha's concern was relentlessly practical: the cessation of suffering through ethical living and epistemic integrity.

One could engage in the core project of cultivating mindfulness, compassion, and wisdom without a metaphysical commitment.

Any philosophy that functions as an organised religion or spiritual path comprises three interlocking components: epistemology, ethics, and metaphysics. Buddha's genius lies in its refusal to bind them rigidly together. One can inhabit the tradition, participate in its moral and contemplative practices, and yet suspend belief in metaphysical doctrines. Buddhism allows room for disagreement, for suspension of judgement, and even for indifference or an agnostic outlook to its broader unverifiable metaphysical belief system, without negating one's adherence.

In contemporary terms, Buddha offers a template for a modern spirituality, one that is investigative, experiential, and intellectually generous. It insists that truth is not handed down but discovered, that wisdom is cultivated, and that ethical life emerges from understanding rather than blind faith. In an interview, Nobel laureate Krasznahorkai reflects on Buddha and the Buddhist metaphysical notion of nothingness, "Do you remember what Buddha told us about the circle? There is a big difference between the infinite and the uncountable finite. After all, what do you think happens when the Sufi dancer dissolves into nothing?"

Buddha's legacy promotes a liberal, progressive and democratic spirit of 'agree to disagree'. In an age of polarised certainties, the most enduring gift from Buddha is a vision of spirituality that is at once ancient and strikingly modern, inviting inquiry and honouring experience.

The writers are chief executive officer, Mhow Cantonment, and deputy commissioner of Delhi Police

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TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026

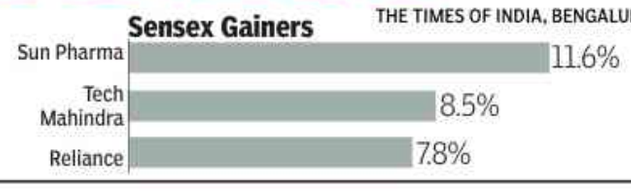
The Week That Was...

Equities post best month in over two years, but fragility lingers

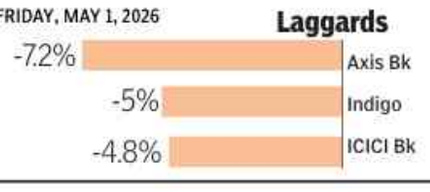
In their best monthly performance since Dec 2023, sensex and Nifty rose 6.9% and 7.5%. The two indices gained 0.3% and 0.4% respectively this week, closing at 76,913 and 23,997. Markets have shown signs of fragility as oil prices surge and rupee weakened to record lows

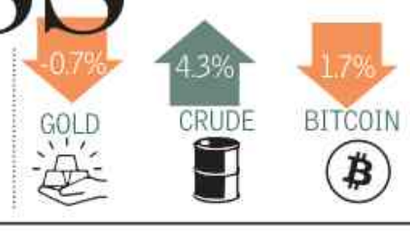
Sensex 0.3%

Sensex Gainers



Laggards





$11.8bn

Is the value of the acquisition deal that Sun pharma has struck to buy US-listed Organon & Co. This is the biggest-ever overseas buyout by an Indian pharmaceutical company

Source: BSE, Reuters, screener.in

Voda Idea gets over ₹23k cr respite in payment to govt

DoT Reassesses Dues At ₹64k Cr, Lifeline To Boost Telco's Ops

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In a massive relief for beleaguered Vodafone Idea, the Department of Telecom (DoT) has reassessed the company's adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues at Rs 64,046 crore at the end of Dec, as against Rs 87,695 crore estimated earlier.

In a stock exchange filing, Vodafone Idea said on Thursday that the committee set up by DoT has allowed it to pay at least Rs 100 crore annually over four years – from 2031-32 to 2034-35 – with the remaining dues to be cleared in six equal annual installments between 2035-36 and 2040-41. In an analyst presentation in Dec, Vodafone Idea said that it would pay Rs 124 crore each for six years, starting the last financial year, and then pay Rs 100 crore annually between 2031-32 and 2034-35, with the remaining amount to be paid over six years.

WHAT'S THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- Minimum ₹100 crore to be paid annually from 2031-32 to 2034-35
- The remaining amount to be paid in 6 equal installments, starting 2035-36 to FY 2040-41
- Dues are on account of a legal dispute over govt's method of calculating adjusted gross revenue
- Telecom operators had contested this method

The dues are on account of a long legal dispute over govt's method of calculating AGR, which telecom operators contested. Vodafone Idea petitioned the Supreme Court, which allowed the Centre to consider the company's grievances. In Dec, govt approved a partial moratorium on Vodafone Idea's dues, freezing them at Rs 87,695 crore and deferring repayments to the 2030s, providing relief in cash flow for the debt-saddled entity, which has now slipped to the third place in the country's highly competitive telecom market. The company reported loss of Rs 5,284 crore during the Dec quarter, which came on the back of annual loss of Rs 27,400 crore during the last financial year (ended March 2025).

In 2021, as part of a relief package, govt converted some of the dues into equity, with the Centre's holding now at 49%, while the promoters have a 25.6% stake between them. Armed with the AGR relief, even as the reassessment proceedings were underway, the promoters moved in with Rs 27,000 crore equity infusion and the company repaid Rs 36,500 crore of bank debt, enabling it to free up resources for investment and expansion. After seeing a fall in its subscriber base during the last few years, the company has shown improvement in subscriber addition in Feb and March. It added over one lakh mobile subscribers in March, according to Trai data. Although Vodafone Idea shares fell 0.7% on Thursday to close at Rs 10.2 on BSE, since April 7, it has climbed over 18%.

Capgemini Q1 revenue rises 7%; sees stable demand environment

Bengaluru: Capgemini reported first-quarter revenues of €5.9 billion, rising 7% at current exchange rates and 11% at constant currency. The company also posted bookings of €6 billion, reflecting sustained demand across its key markets.

The French IT firm said it continues to gain traction in cloud and AI-led transformation, backed by large deals and long-term partnerships, including a five-year extension with McDonald's.

CEO Aiman Ezzat said there are no signs of a demand slowdown. "We don't see clients scaling back, cancellations, or delays. There is absolutely no change in the environment right now," he said.

For 2026, Capgemini expects revenue growth of 6.5% to 8.5% at constant currency, with an operating margin of 13.6% to 13.8%. It also expects to generate organic free cash flow of €1.8 billion to €1.9 billion, even as restructuring-related cash outflows increase under its fit-for-growth programme. TNN

HC sets aside ₹1,524cr IGST demand against Tata Sons

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Mumbai: Bombay high court on Thursday quashed and set aside a show cause notice issued in 2022 to Tata Sons for a demand of Rs 1,524 crore as Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST).

Justices Girish Kulkarni and Aarti Sathe on Thursday also agreed with Tata Sons that following the final settlement in 2017, Docomo's withdrawal of proceedings it had filed earlier in UK courts, did not constitute any 'independent agreement' to mean 'supply of services' that would attract the CGST Act.

The IGST was sought for damages worth over Rs 8,400 crore that Tata Sons, the holding company of Tata Group, paid in 2017 to Japanese company, Docomo. The damages followed settlement of disputes that emerged over a 2009 Share Holders Agreement (SHA) between the two companies. The HC held that the DG GST Intelligence was not justified in proposing to levy IGST on settlement of arbitral award in the proceedings adopted by Docomo.

On 15 Feb 2022, the department said that the damages, interest, legal and arbitration costs paid to Docomo on 30 Oct 2017 and 7 Nov 2017 under an arbitral award, attracted GST under the Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017. Tata Sons moved HC in 2023 to challenge the demand as absurd , arbitrary and without authority.

Tata's senior counsel Arvind Datar said it would be quite absurd to treat damages, awarded as judicial exercise, "as consideration or transaction value of supply" to attract GST.

HUL raises prices as war inflates input costs

Logs 7% Sales Growth In Q4, Highest In 12 Qtrs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Hindustan Unilever (HUL) has hiked prices by 2-5%, signalling more increases could be in the offing going ahead as the company copes with a 8-10% cost inflation on the back of the West Asia war that sent oil prices soaring, weighing on raw material costs for a host of consumer goods ranging from detergents to lotions and dishwashing liquids.

With supplies and its pace of production untouched by the war and demand remaining stable, the firm kept its outlook intact, betting on FY27 to be better than FY26, adding that higher reservoir levels and increase in MSPs (minimum support price) should support rural incomes, offsetting risks emanating from projections of a below normal monsoon and threat of El-nino conditions.

HUL rebounded from several quarters of subdued growth, recording a near 8% year-on-year rise in consolidated revenues in Q4 to Rs 16,351 crore with underlying volume growth at 6% touching a 15-quarter high as demand looked up after a prolonged period of sluggishness partly helped by a benign domestic macro-environment during the quarter.

Net profits increased to Rs 2,994 crore in Q4 from Rs 2,475 crore in the year-ago period, a growth of 21%. HUL's underlying sales growth stood at 7%, its highest growth in 12 quarters. "We expect some recalibration between volume and price. We will take calibrated price increases, we will also focus on savings across the lines of the P&L and ensure that we do best in terms of leveraging both our financial stability as a company and operating scale and use that to ensure that we navigate the short-term while remaining very focused on the long-term growth opportunity that we have at HUL," MD & CEO Priya Nair said.

> We expect some recalibration between volume and price. We will take calibrated price increases, we will also focus on savings across the lines of the P&L and ensure that we do best in terms of leveraging both our financial stability as a company and operating scale and use that to ensure that we navigate the short-term while remaining very focused on the long-term growth opportunity that we have at HUL
>
> —Priya Nair | MD & CEO, HUL

- **2-5% price hikes** as HUL battles **8-10% input cost inflation** from crude-linked pressures
- FY27 seen stronger than FY26, rural boost from higher MSPs, reservoir levels despite below-normal monsoon projections

Infosys names Nitin Paranjpe as vice-chairman

Bengaluru: Infosys has appointed **Nitin Paranjpe** as non-executive vice-chairman with immediate effect, even as chairman Nandan Nilekani ruled out any immediate succession plans. Paranjpe brings extensive experience, including roles as non-executive chairman of Hindustan Unilever and non-executive vice-chairman of Heineken. In his new role, he will support the chairman in guiding the board and shaping the company's strategic agenda. "We are delighted to have Nitin in this position," said Nilekani. "His expertise has already made a significant impact on the board, and we look forward to his continued leadership in this expanded role. I will continue as chairman of the board as long as necessary, and there are no plans for a chairman transition." TNN

Roblox appoints Sunil Rao as India managing director

Bengaluru: Gaming platform Roblox has appointed **Sunil Rao** as its India managing director. Rao joins Roblox from Amazon Web Services (AWS), where he led strategy and corporate business development across the Asia-Pacific and Japan (APJ) region. In his new role, Rao will strengthen the company's local presence, build partnerships, support the creator ecosystem, and align India-specific needs with global product and business priorities. Roblox is a gaming platform that hosts user-created virtual experiences. Last year, the platform's global creator community earned more than $1.5 billion. Roblox also provides developers with free, easy-to-use tools for coding, design, and entrepreneurship, alongside safety systems. TNN

State-run banks hire over 50k in FY26, a rise of 33%

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Public sector banks recruited 50,552 employees in last financial year, 33% higher than 37,860 hired in the previous financial year, as they expanded their operations.

In a statement, the finance ministry said that offer letters were sent to over 50,000 candidates in 2025-26 after the recruitment exercise conducted through the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS).

This adds to nearly 1.5 lakh employees recruited by the state-run lenders between 2019-20 and 2024-25. At end of March 2025, public sector banks, which control majority of business in the country, had 7,58,172 employees, according to data shared with Parliament. It was after a gap of several years that the headcount in govt-owned banks went up.

With a little under 2.4 lakh employees at the end of FY25, State Bank of India, the country's largest lender, accounted for nearly 31% of the headcount, followed by over one lakh at Punjab National Bank and 81,260 at Canara Bank. There were over one lakh contractual workers in these banks at the end of June 2025, govt had told Parliament.

In Jan 2025, officers made up nearly 56% of the workforce, compared with 39% in 2011, indicating a shift in recruitment trends in recent years.

The finance ministry said enhanced recruitment is expected to strengthen operational capacity, reduce workload pressures and improve customer service .

EXPANDING OPERATIONS

Year	Offer letters issued by PSBs	Staff strength of PSBs (in lakh)
2023-24	30,827	7.55
2024-25	37,860	7.58
2025-26	50,552	NA

Source: Finance ministry

JuliaHub gets $65mn, launches AI platform for industrial design

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Bengaluru: JuliaHub has raised $65 million, led by Dorilton Capital, with participation from General Catalyst, AE Ventures, and former Snowflake CEO Bob Muglia.

Alongside the funding, the company launched Dyad 3.0, an updated version of its AI platform for designing and testing complex industrial systems. Dyad is built to bring "agentic AI" into hardware engineering—essentially allowing AI agents to help design, simulate, and optimise machines such as heat pumps, satellites, and semiconductors.

JuliaHub said Dyad can automate complex engineering tasks, such as building control systems for chemical plants, which would traditionally take weeks. The platform is also designed to ensure that AI-generated designs follow the laws of physics—critical in industries where errors can have serious real-world consequences.

"It's not about helping engineers complete one small task at a time. It's agentic engineering at scale, where teams can feed a full specification to Dyad and have it design the complete system. Spec in. Design out," said Viral Shah, CEO of JuliaHub.

Rupee breaches 95 intraday as crude enters slippery slope

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The rupee breached the 95-per-dollar mark on Thursday to hit a record low before suspected RBI intervention helped it recover to close at 94.91, down six paise from its previous close of 94.85.

The currency fell to an intraday low of 95.33, declining around 0.5% and surpassing its earlier record level, as rising crude oil prices raised concerns over inflation, growth, and capital flows. It later pared losses during the session to end marginally weaker, indicating possible intervention in the forex market. Pressure on the rupee intensified amid a sharp rally in crude oil prices, with levels near $120 worsening the outlook for the import bill of a net energy importer. Other oil-sensitive Asian currencies also weakened in a volatile session as crude prices surged to multi-year highs.

Dealers said the outlook for the rupee depends largely on the trajectory of crude oil prices. They said that if crude prices remain above $120 for an extended period, the currency could weaken further towards 97 levels. The rupee has declined over 5% in 2026, after a similar drop last year, reflecting persistent pressure on the external sector.

Cars24 cofounder Agrawal steps back from operating role

Bengaluru: Mehul Agrawal, cofounder of used-car marketplace Cars24, is stepping back from his operating role after more than a decade, marking the latest leadership transition at the SoftBank-backed firm. Agrawal announced the move in a LinkedIn post on Thursday. He said he will continue to be associated with the company as a member of its board. TNN

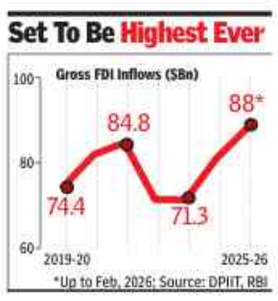
FDI inflows likely to have crossed $90bn in FY26

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India's foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows may have crossed the $90 billion mark for the first time in 2025-26, secretary at department of promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) Amardeep Singh Bhatia told reporters Thursday, while seeking to highlight that greater outreach to investors has borne fruit, with free trade agreements (FTAs) set to provide further impetus to trade and investment inflows.

Another official said that gross FDI till Feb 2026 was $88.3 billion, nearly 10% higher than $80.6 billion in 2024-25. This also helped blunt some of the impact of higher outward investment and repatriation from the country, with net FDI in first 11 months of the last fiscal year pegged at $6.2 billion, compared with $959 million in entire 2024-25.

Set To Be Highest Ever



Besides, the proposed changes in the rules governing FDI from countries sharing land borders with India are soon going to be notified by the department of economic affairs (DEA). "It is under process. The DEA will have to do their internal consultations and discussions with our agencies and then they will come up with the notification," an official said.

While DPIIT's Press Note 2 (2026) last month announced the changes, the DEA must amend the Foreign Exchange Management Act (Non-debt Instruments) through a notification to give a legal basis to the announcement, added the official.

This latest note changed the earlier rule of April 2020 (Press Note 3) that had made govt approval mandatory for all FDI from neighbouring countries sharing land borders with India – China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan and Afghanistan. Earlier, these curbs were put to prevent opportunistic takeovers of Indian companies due to eroded valuations during the Covid pandemic shock.

Besides, the Invest India, which is the national investment promotion and facilitation agency, said it has facilitated projects worth over $6.1 billion in 2025-26, which are expected to generate more than 31,000 jobs across 14 states.

Safe haven: RBI brings back another 104MT of gold

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The RBI brought a large quantity of gold back to India during Oct 2025-March 2026, even as the share of the yellow metal in forex reserves rose sharply with soaring gold prices and a decline in foreign currency assets.

According to data released by RBI in its half-yearly report of foreign exchange reserves, domestically held gold increased from 575.8 metric tonnes at end-Sept 2025 to 680 metric tonnes at end-March 2026. This implies that the RBI brought 104.2 metric tonnes of gold into the country during the six-month period. Gold held in safe custody abroad with the Bank of England and the Bank for International Settlements declined from 290.4 metric tonnes to 197.7 metric tonnes.

GOLD HOLDING UP AT 680MT

- According to RBI data, domestically held gold increased from **575.8 metric tonnes at end-Sept 2025 to 680 metric tonnes at end-March 2026**
- Gold held in safe custody abroad with the Bank of England and the Bank for International Settlements **declined from 290.4 metric tonnes to 197.7 metric tonnes**
- Amid heightened geopolitical tensions, several central banks have repatriated gold reserves to **bolster sovereignty and mitigate risks of foreign custody**
- **RBI had earlier repatriated 274 to 280 tonnes during 2023 to 2025,** including 64 tonnes in mid-2025 and around 100 tonnes from the UK

The central bank's total gold holdings rose marginally from 880.2 metric tonnes (valued at $97.4 billion) at end-Sept 2025 to 880.5 metric tonnes (valued at $115.4 billion) at end-March 2026. The share of gold in total foreign exchange reserves (in value terms) increased sharply from 13.9% to 16.7%.

Amid heightened geopolitical tensions, several central banks have repatriated gold reserves to bolster sovereignty and mitigate foreign custody risks.

France's Banque de France completed the transfer of 129 metric tonnes from the New York Federal Reserve to Paris vaults in early 2026.

RBI had earlier repatriated 274 to 280 tonnes during 2023 to 2025, including 64 tonnes in mid-2025 and around 100 tonnes from the UK, raising domestic holdings above 65% of reserves. Serbia's National Bank brought back its entire holding of around $6 billion gold stock in July 2025 to avoid global hubs.

Germany's Deutsche Bundesbank is weighing options for its 1,236 tonnes in New York, with discussions rising in Jan 2025 after a former official said it was "too risky." World Gold Council data showed 59% of central banks stored more gold onshore by 2025, up from 50% in 2020, led by emerging markets wary of sanctions, although some countries such as Poland continue with a mixed approach.

RBI foreign currency assets declined from $579.2 billion at end-Sept 2025 to $552.3 billion at end-March 2026. The RBI maintained a multi-currency portfolio comprising the US dollar, euro, pound sterling, and Japanese yen, with reserves expressed in US dollar terms.

The deployment pattern of these assets remained largely stable with minor shifts. Investment in securities fell from $489.5 billion, or 84.5% of FCA, to $465.6 billion, or 84.3%. Deposits with other central banks and the Bank for International Settlements rose slightly from $46.1 billion, or close to 8%, to $46.8 billion, or 8.5%.

Deposits with commercial banks overseas declined from $43.5 billion, or 7.5%, to $39.8 billion, or 7.2%.

Amazon's qcomm monthly orders in India rise 25%

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Bengaluru: Amazon's quick commerce push in India is gaining early traction, with orders on its Amazon Now service growing about 25% month on month, chief executive Andy Jassy said during an analyst call, as the company ramps up investments in one of its fastest-growing markets.

"We continue to expand our ultrafast delivery service, Amazon Now, which offers delivery in 30 minutes or less on thousands of items. It started last year in India, where orders are increasing 25% month on month, with Prime members tripling their shopping frequency once they start using it," Jassy said on Wednesday. Despite the momentum, late entrants such as Amazon and Flipkart remain significantly behind incumbents in terms of scale and pincode reach.

EXPANSION

Analysts say the real test will be whether these players can build network maturity and expand categories over time. A UBS note, based on channel checks for the Dec quarter of FY26, estimates Amazon Now's daily orders at around 300,000-400,000 across roughly 450 dark stores. This translates to about 700-900 orders per store per day, compared with around 1,400 for Blinkit and 1,034 for Swiggy Instamart during the same period. The note also highlights that only about 80 of Amazon's stores are over six months old, indicating that much of its network is still in the early stages of ramp-up. Amazon Now's average order value is currently estimated at Rs 260-300, rising to Rs 320-360 for more mature stores.

UBS noted that Amazon's quick commerce operations currently rely on a mix of partnerships and selective in-house capabilities, including third-party logistics and sourcing support through its stake in More Retail.

TIMES GLOBAL

* THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026

THERE IS NO INSTANCE OF A NATION BENEFITTING FROM PROLONGED WARFARE.
SUN TZU

MERYL STREEP REVEALS SHE CALLED LADY GAGA & MADE THE SINGER'S 'THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2' CAMEO HAPPEN

BILLIE EILISH SAYS SHE USED TO DISMISS ALL CONVERSATIONS ABOUT ZODIAC SIGNS UNTIL SHE WENT OUT WITH A 'GEMINI GUY'

Trump admin floats new plans to force Iran to reopen Hormuz

Seeks Int'l Help; Wants Allies To Impose Higher Costs On Iran

Washington: Trump floated a new plan to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, a senior official said. Under the plan, the United States would continue its blockade on Iranian ports, while coordinating with allies to impose higher costs on Iran's attempts to subvert the free flow of energy, according to a senior administration official.

Trump is weighing multiple diplomatic and policy options to push Iran to end its chokehold on the waterway, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to comment publicly.

Wants to build a maritime coalition of partner-nations

The United States is also pressing ahead with plans for an international coalition to open the Strait of Hormuz, according to a state department cable seen by Reuters.

Another plan to be shared with Trump involves taking over part of the Strait of Hormuz to reopen it to commercial shipping, the Axios reported, saying such an operation may involve ground forces.

In a sign the US was also envisaging a scenario where hostilities cease, the state department cable invited partner countries to join a new coalition called Maritime Freedom Construct (MFC) to enable ships to navigate the strait. "The MFC constitutes a critical first step in the establishment of a post-conflict maritime security architecture for the Middle East," said the cable, which was due to be delivered orally to partner nations by May 1.

France, Britain and other countries have held talks on contributing to such a coalition but said they were only willing to help open the Strait when the conflict ends.

Trump hails 'greatest king' Charles as state visit wraps up

AP

President Donald Trump with Britain's king Charles III and queen Camilla during a departure ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House, Thursday. Trump hailed Charles III as the "greatest king", and said the United States needed more people like Britain's monarch

Iran's supreme leader: US suffered shameful defeat

Iran's supreme leader declared Thursday that the United States had suffered a shameful defeat, defiantly rejecting a warning from President Donald Trump that an economically punishing US naval blockade could be enforced for months to come.

"Today, two months after the largest military deployment and aggression by the world's bullies in the region, and the United States' disgraceful defeat in its plans, a new chapter is unfolding for the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz," Mojtaba Khamenei said in a written statement that was read out on state television.

Only Iran-linked traffic moves through Hormuz

A few Iran-linked vessels are making their way through the Strait of Hormuz, as the crucial waterway remains effectively closed to most international shipping. Just a single Iran-linked fuel tanker was observed entering the Persian Gulf on Thursday morning, with no exits for the day recorded so far, according to tracking data by Bloomberg. AP, REUTERS, BLOOMBERG

As Trump nukes science, is India's brain drain ready for 'brain regain'?

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: He thinks diet soda kills cancer cells when consumed because it scorches grass when poured on it. He claims noise from windmills causes cancer. He most famously mused about injecting disinfectants into the body to kill the Covid virus.

In his latest, US President Donald Trump has landed with unusual force: the wholesale dismissal of the National Science Board, the independent 22-member body, including three Indian-Americans, that oversees the National Science Foundation (NSF), America's primary engine for funding basic research.

Desi expat groups on social media are boiling with questions about relocation to India, including about children's schools and financial transfers

Among those removed were three prominent scientists of Indian origin: Sudarsanam Babu, a leading figure in advanced manufacturing at Oak Ridge National Laboratory; Arun Majumdar, dean of Stanford's Doerr School of Sustainability and a former US energy official; and Suresh Garimella, a noted thermal sciences expert and university president. Their presence on the board had reflected the global character of American science, and their removal comes at a time when there are calls from some prominent Indian tech elites urging their return.

Created by Congress in 1950 and designed to outlast political cycles, the NSB was meant to insulate science policy from partisan swings. Its abrupt termination — delivered via a terse email last week — has instead become a symbol of a broader dismantling of the country's scientific architecture.

Over the past year, the Trump administration has fired advisory panels, cancelled more than 1,400 NSF grants, and proposed sweeping budget cuts to major research agencies — including reductions of over 50% to NSF funding and deep cuts to the National Institutes of Health, Nasa's science programmes, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The consequences are already rippling through laboratories and universities. Funding uncertainty has forced hiring freezes and cuts to graduate programs, constricting the pipeline of future researchers, many from India. For many scientists, the cumulative effect is prompting a difficult calculation: stay and adapt, or leave the US.

Specific numbers relating to India are not available, but recent surveys suggest sentiment among foreign-origin scientists to quit America is gaining traction. A Nature analysis reports that roughly 75% of US-based scientists are considering opportunities abroad, with a 32% jump in international job applications compared to the previous year. More than 10,000 doctoral-level experts — about 14% of the federal STEM PhD workforce — left govt roles in 2025 alone. Among early researchers, the numbers are even starker: about 80% of postdoctoral fellows and 75% of graduate students say they are contemplating careers outside the US.

The destinations vary. Europe, with its stable funding frameworks, is an obvious draw. Canada and Australia are actively recruiting. China, long a competitor for talent, has stepped up incentives for returnees. India, too, is ramping up its calls with "return-to-India" invites like the Ramanujan Fellowship, Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship, INSPIRE Faculty Scheme, and Visiting Advanced Joint Research Faculty Scheme.

Yet the exodus is not inevitable. The US retains formidable advantages: world-class universities, deep private-sector investment, and a culture of innovation that has long attracted global talent. Still, for many in the scientific community, the concern is less about any single policy than about the erosion of norms in the Trump era.

Italy condemns Israeli military interception of Gaza aid flotilla

Italy condemns Israel's seizure of aid ships bound for Gaza and demands the immediate release of all Italians who have been "unlawfully detained," PM Giorgia Meloni's office said on Thursday.

Israel intercepted the vessels in international waters near Greece late on Wednesday, a move the organisers — Global Sumud Flotilla — called an act of piracy against boats carrying humanitarian aid to the war-ravaged Palestinian enclave. Israel said the intercepted activists would be taken to Greek shores where they would disembark.

Separately, Germany and Italy's foreign ministries issued a joint statement saying they were following developments with "deep concern". The statement, which did not mention Israel by name, called for "full respect of international law" and avoidance of "irresponsible actions."

Meloni's right-wing govt has been one of Israel's closest friends in Europe, but in recent weeks it has criticised its attacks on Lebanon. REUTERS

Oil retreats after hitting 4-yr high on escalation concerns

Brent crude cooled off after ripping to a four-year high on anticipation of a protracted US war with Iran, in a session marked by machine-led trading and thin volumes. The most active Brent crude futures steadied near $110 a barrel as the June contract headed toward expiry.

Earlier, that contract had surpassed $126 a barrel, the highest since the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Outside of Thursday's sleepy trading, prices have ripped higher this week with the US and Iran deadlocked in their conflict.

Volumes were low as traders closed positions ahead of Brent's expiry which may explain some of the volatility.

Euro-Zone growth slows as war brings stagflation closer

The euro-area economy unexpectedly slowed at the start of 2026, with soaring energy costs triggered by the Iran war threatening stagflation in the months ahead.

First-quarter gross domestic product rose 0.1% from the previous three months — below the 0.2% median estimate in a Bloomberg poll. Spain led the way again among the region's top economies, expanding by 0.6%. Germany grew by 0.3%, while France unexpectedly stagnated.

Asean nations vow to avoid export bans, share fuel

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations vowed to avoid trade curbs and push ahead with a fuel-sharing scheme as the region grapples with a spike in oil prices and supply disruptions due to the war. "We will keep trade open and predictable. Asean agreed to avoid restrictive trade measures, including export bans on essential goods," Philippine trade secretary Cristina Roque said in a briefing on Thursday. Asean is also working to advance the ratification of an agreement that enables coordinated emergency fuel sharing amid supply disruptions. BLOOMBERG

Hegseth accused of 'causing lasting harm to military'

Defence secretary Pete Hegseth is "causing lasting harm to the military," the Senate Armed Services Committee's top Democrat said as the panel hosted the Pentagon chief for a second day of testimony.

"Every officer knows they are duty-bound to give their best professional advice, even when it is not what their superiors want to hear," Rhode Island Senator Jack Reed said in remarks ahead of the hearing on Thursday. "Because when leaders fear speaking honestly, people die. Missions fail. Wars are lost." BLOOMBERG

Lebanon: 15 killed in Israeli strikes

Israeli strikes on south Lebanon killed at least 15 people, the health ministry said Thursday, as the country's president decried what he described as ongoing Israeli violations of a nearly two-week ceasefire. The Lebanese army said another strike on a home in Kfar Rumman killed one of its soldiers and "members of his family". The ministry is yet to include it in its toll. AFP

Would encourage British king to return Koh-i-Noor diamond: Mamdani

Britain's king Charles interacts with New York City mayor Zohran Mamdani during a visit to 9/11 Memorial on Wednesday

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani said he would encourage King Charles III to return the Koh-i-Noor diamond. "If I was to speak to the King separately from that, I would probably encourage him to return the Koh-i-Noor diamond," Mamdani said before he met the British monarch. Mamdani was asked what he would say to the King, who visited New York City on the second day of his state visit to the US. Hours later, Mamdani met King Charles at the 9/11 memorial, but it was not confirmed whether he discussed the Koh-i-Noor issue with the British monarch. PTI

China's foreign min tells Rubio Taiwan is 'biggest risk' in ties

Secretary of state Marco Rubio spoke with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi about the Iran war and an upcoming summit between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping mid-May, China's state Xinhua News Agency reported on Thursday.

Rubio and Wang exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East, Xinhua said, with the Chinese official saying the two countries should manage differences. Wang also stressed that Taiwan remained the biggest risk to bilateral ties with the US. The state department did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the call.

In a separate call Thursday, Chinese vice-premier He Lifeng expressed "serious concerns" to US treasury secretary Scott Bessent and Trade Representative Jamieson Greer over recent trade and economic restrictions.

Both sides agreed to continue using bilateral consultation mechanisms to build consensus, manage differences and promote stable, sustainable ties, according to a statement. BLOOMBERG

Merz vs Trump: Germany says 'prepared' for any US troop cut

Germany said Thursday it was "prepared" for a possible reduction in US troops threatened by President Trump, who kept up his barrage of attacks on Chancellor Friedrich Merz.

Trump said Washington was considering redeploying some of the tens of thousands of its troops stationed in Germany amid a row with Merz over the war in Iran.

German foreign minister Johann Wadephul, on a visit to Morocco, said: "We are prepared for that... and we are expecting decisions from the Americans."

Merz became a target of Trump's ire after saying earlier this week that Iran was "humiliating" Washington at the negotiating table.

Trump said on Tuesday that Merz "thinks it's OK for Iran to have a Nuclear Weapon. He doesn't know what he's talking about!" AFP

Myanmar govt orders Suu Kyi to house arrest

Myanmar's junta-chief turned president on Thursday ordered deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi to be moved to house arrest, five years after sweeping her into detention in a 2021 coup.

A statement from the office of Min Aung Hlaing said he had "commuted the remaining sentence" of the 80-year-old Suu Kyi "to be served at the designated residence". The office also shared a photograph seeming to show Suu Kyi sitting flanked by two men — one in a khaki shirt and another in a police uniform.

It was not immediately clear where she will be moved, but a senior source from her dissolved National League for Democracy (NLD) party told AFP she would likely be kept sequestered at an address in the capital Naypyidaw. "We do not know where it is exactly," the source said.

A Naypyidaw police source said security forces had been ordered to "enforce restrictions" in areas of the capital on Thursday night. "The 'designated residence' mentioned in the order will remain under their direct custody and control," they said. AFP

Canada to raise financial bar for int'l student applicants

Lubna Kably

A standing committee in Canada has proposed a sweeping 10-point tightening of its international student programme, including higher financial threshold requirements for students, country-based caps and stricter institutional oversight. The move signals a decisive shift towards a more selective system that could significantly impact Indian students, the largest cohort.

Nearly 5 lakh Indian students held study permits as of Sept 2024, even as the new intake of students has dropped significantly since then, owing to various policy changes.

The recommendations outlined in a report 'Reconstituting Canada's International Student Program', come amid concerns that the system has reached a 'breaking point' after years of rapid expansion that outpaced housing, healthcare and regulatory capacity.

10-POINT PROPOSAL TO TIGHTEN CHECKS

- Raise cost-of-living requirement for students
- **Introduce random audits and penalties for colleges**
- Consider caps for high-risk countries (overstays/ asylum claims)
- **Tighten checks on language proficiency requirements**
- Publish clear, plain-language rules for students
- **Increase consultation with provinces on better long-term planning**
- Fast-track permit renewals for graduate students
- **Align work permits with labour market needs**
- Set up a national data and research centre
- **Commission economic impact study of student caps**

A key proposal is to raise the cost-of-living requirement beyond current benchmarks, effectively increasing the financial bar for applicants. At present, international students must show a bank balance of Canadian dollars 22,895 (excluding tuition and travel costs) — this applies to study permit applications that are filed on or after Sept 1, 2025.

More controversially, the standing committee has recommended country-caps on study permits and extensions for applicants from countries with high rates of visa overstays or asylum claims.

Canada had already introduced an overall cap on study permits way back in 2024 and subsequently tightened intake targets. Under its Immigration Levels Plan for 2026–2028, new student intake has been reduced to 1.55 lakh for 2026, with further marginal declines projected. While this slash seemed drastic, experts say actual inflows had already dropped significantly in 2025.

The committee has also called for stricter monitoring of language proficiency requirements, signalling tighter screening at the entry stage. To improve accountability the committee has proposed random audits of 'Designated Learning Institutions' and penalties for those issuing misleading documents. It has also flagged the role of third-party agents, calling for greater transparency in recruitment.

"The report recognises the need for better research and policy innovation in international education, as well as more collaborative, long-term planning," said Lisa Brunner, research associate, at the University of British Columbia Centre for Migration Studies.

A Toronto-based education specialist welcomed the proposal for improved accountability as in the recent past, instances like abrupt enrolment suspensions, loss of institutional accreditations and closure of colleges has left hundreds of Indian students stranded.

To curb misinformation, the committee recommends clearer disclosures on costs, housing challenges and the reality that pathways to permanent residence are competitive, not guaranteed.

The report also calls for closer coordination with provinces, alignment of post-graduation work permits with labour market needs, and creation of a national data centre to improve transparency and policymaking.

Not all measures are restrictive. The committee has recommended faster study permit renewals for graduate students, recognising their contribution to research and innovation.

UK 'Islamic sect' members arrested over sexual abuse, slavery allegations

Naomi Canton

London: Over 500 police officers raided an "Islamic sect" on Wednesday and arrested 10 members for various offences, including rape, sexual assault and human trafficking. The officers, under the watch of a helicopter, raided the Ahmadi Religion of Peace and Light (AROPL) headquarters situated at a former orphanage, Webb House, Crewe, where around 150 adults and children live, along with two other properties, at 8.50am local time.

One of those arrested was the group's spiritual leader, Abdullah Hashem Aba Al-Safiq. Seven men, of American, British, Mexican, Spanish, German and Egyptian nationality, were arrested for a range of offences, including forced marriage and modern slavery.

Three women, of Italian, Swedish and US nationality, were all arrested on suspicion of modern slavery offences and sexual assault.

A further 13 people were arrested on suspicion of public order offences inside the property. Cheshire police said last month they were made aware of allegations of offences, reported to have taken place in 2023, all involving one woman who was a member of the group.

AROPL is a millenarian religious movement with roots in Twelver Shia Islam. It has no connection to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

DAILY PLANET

AFP

MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL MARKS SPRING ARRIVAL: Devotees walk on a forest path carrying a portable shrine holding a deity back to the Musashi Mitake Shrine atop Mount Mitake on the second day of the two-day Hinode Sai, or Sunrise festival, in Ome, Tokyo Prefecture, on Wednesday. The centuries-old festival is believed to have started when wandering ascetics climbed Mount Mitake in search of enlightenment. Each spring, it attracts devotees from across Japan to the still largely untouched mountaintop about 55km from Tokyo's metropolitan area

Baselitz, German artist, dies at 88

German artist Georg Baselitz, whose expressive paintings and sculptures stirred controversy in West Germany before winning global acclaim, has died aged 88, local media reported on Thursday. Baselitz, born Hans-Georg Kern, was among Germany's most prominent contemporary visual artists with a body of work over six decades across a range of techniques.

Sweden fetes king's 80th birthday with flypast

Sweden feted its longest reigning monarch Carl XVI Gustaf's 80th birthday on Thursday with a choral tribute, a flypast and a gala banquet to be attended by royals from around the world.

Teen with 30 tortoises under clothes nabbed

Thai authorities arrested a teenager at a Bangkok airport for allegedly smuggling 30 protected tortoises valued at about $9,000 that were taped under her clothing, wildlife officials said Wednesday.

Kanpai! Space-brewed sake sells for $700,000

A small bottle of Japanese sake, made from mash fermented in space, sold for almost $700,000, its brewer said as the company explores ways to make the drink on the Moon. Brewer Dassai teamed up with aerospace and engineering firm Mitsubishi Heavy Industries to build specialised brewing equipment. The alcoholic fermentation process was carried out in Nov inside ISS and the mash was returned to Earth in Feb.

WH opposes Anthropic plan to expand Mythos access

The White House opposes a plan by Anthropic PBC to expand access to its Mythos AI model, an administration official said Wednesday night. Members of President Donald Trump's administration have told Anthropic that they don't agree with the company's plan to grant access to its Mythos technology to roughly 70 companies and organisations, according to the official, who requested anonymity.

The misgivings regarding Mythos, a technology that the company says is powerful enough to enable dangerous cyberattacks, were reported earlier by the Wall Street Journal.

US officials are worried that Anthropic doesn't have enough computing power to serve more Mythos users without affecting the govt's ability to use it effectively, according to the Journal, which cited unnamed sources.

The US National Security Agency has been testing the capabilities of Mythos to find cybersecurity vulnerabilities in popular software, including Microsoft products, according to a US official and another person familiar with the matter. BLOOMBERG

Humanoid maker 1X opens new US factory, to build 10k home robots

1X Technologies AS, the Norway-founded robotics startup backed by OpenAI, has opened a new 58,000-square-foot factory in Hayward, California. The facility will serve as a manufacturing hub with the capacity to build 10,000 robots in its first year, according to 1X executives.

1X's "Neo" humanoid, which is currently available for pre-order at $20,000, has generated buzz on social media for its soft, human-like body, designed to help with domestic tasks like folding laundry and tidying up. It can talk and learn new skills over time. BLOOMBERG

INCOMING: 1X's 'Neo' humanoid

Taiwan's economy surges at fastest pace since 1987 on AI boom

Taiwan's economy grew at its fastest since 1987, overcoming disruptions caused by the war in Iran as the island continues to ride demand for its tech products supporting the build-out of artificial intelligence computing. Gross domestic product expanded 13.7% in the first quarter from a year earlier, compared with 12.7% in previous three months, said a statement by the statistics bureau in Taipei on Thursday. BLOOMBERG

"I HAVE NOT PLAYED WITH A BETTER SPIN-HITTING BATTER EVER. ABHISHEK IS ONE OF THE BEST I HAVE SEEN IN TERMS OF BALL-STRIKING AGAINST SPIN. SO, IT IS ABOUT GETTING HIM ON STRIKE AND WATCHING HIM GO ABOUT HIS WORK. HE PUTS TEAMS UNDER PRESSURE."
—Travis Head | SRH opener on Abhishek Sharma

Titans topple RCB

Captain Gill's Cameo Sets Up Win After Bowlers Join The Party

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Yogesh Chawda

Ahmedabad: After a slow start to the season, Gujarat Titans are coming into their own just when it matters. Following their eight-wicket win against Chennai Super Kings on Sunday, the former champions produced a sharp all-round performance at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Thursday to beat Royal Challengers Bengaluru by four wickets.

After restricting the defending champions to 155 with a disciplined bowling effort, GT crossed the line in 15.5 overs, though not without a bit of huffing and puffing.

Captain Shubman Gill (43 off 18 balls) set the tone, taking on Australian pacer Josh Hazlewood early with his trademark punches and pulls. RCB fought back through Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who removed prolific openers B Sai Sudharsan and Gill in the Powerplay. Bhuvneshwar (3/28) also accounted for Jos Buttler (39), while the dismissals of Washington Sundar and Shahrukh Khan added a bit of pressure. But Rahul Tewatia (27*) and Rashid Khan (7*) ensured the lower middle-order did enough to take GT to their fifth win and keep them in touch with the leading pack.

Earlier, RCB began the contest like a team possessed, before sharp catching and disciplined bowling by the hosts helped them bowl out the visitors for 155. After Virat Kohli (28) began in imperious fashion — hitting new-ball bowler Kagiso Rabada for five boundaries in the second over — Rabada's new-ball partner Mohammed Siraj had left-hander Jacob Bethell (5) caught by Rashid Khan at short midwicket.

Gill's decision to persist with Rabada, who leaked 21 runs in his opening over, reaped rewards as Kohli's bid to dominate the South African was undone by a zippy short ball that cramped him. The batter's attempted pull barely cleared the 30-yard circle, where Rashid completed a sliding catch. RCB were 39/2 after four overs. Captain Rajat Patidar then joined Devdutt Padikkal (40), and the pair took RCB to 59/2 by the end of the Powerplay.

Their 44-run partnership came to an end when Patidar's pick-up shot was held by a diving Jason Holder off left-arm seamer Arshad Khan (3/22).

RCB then slid from 79/3 to 96/6 in the space of 17 balls. Though Romario Shepherd (17) and Padikkal tried to salvage the innings, the latter was bowled by Rashid (2/19) off an inside edge, ending their 30-run stand.

TOP SHOW: GT's Jason Holder celebrates after dismissing Jitesh Sharma on Thursday

8.3 Rashid Khan's economy rate while claiming 10 wickets at 27.4 runs apiece in nine matches, the best among spinners with 10 wickets or more in this IPL.

HOW THEY STAND

TEAM	M	W	L	NR	NRR	P
PBKS	8	6	1	1	1.043	13
RCB	9	6	3	0	1.420	12
SRH	9	6	3	0	0.832	12
RR	9	6	3	0	0.617	12
GT	9	5	4	0	-0.192	10
CSK	8	3	5	0	-0.121	6
DC	8	3	5	0	-1.060	6
KKR	8	2	5	1	-0.751	5
MI	8	2	6	0	-0.784	4
LSG	8	2	6	0	-1.106	4

SCOREBOARD

RCB: J Bethell c Rashid b Siraj 5, V Kohli c Rashid b Rabada 28, D Padikkal b Rashid 40, R Patidar c Holder b Arshad 19, J Sharma c Buttler b Holder 1, T David c Holder b Rashid 9, K Pandya c Holder b Arshad 4, R Shepherd c Sudharsan b Holder 17, V Iyer c Sudharsan b Arshad 12, B Kumar not out 15, J Hazlewood run out 0; **Extras: (lb3, w2) 5; Total: (19.2 ovrs) 155; FoW:** 1-34, 2-35, 3-79, 4-80, 5-91, 6-96, 7-126, 8-126, 9-155, 10-155; **Bowling:** Siraj 4-0-38-1, Rabada 4-0-44-1, Holder 4-0-29-2, Arshad 3.2-0-22-3, Rashid 4-0-19-2.

GT: S Sudharsan c Jitesh b Bhuvneshwar 6, S Gill c Kohli b Bhuvneshwar 43, J Buttler b Bhuvneshwar 39, W Sundar lbw b Shepherd 12, S Khan c Hazlewood b Shepherd 8, R Tewatia not out 27, J Holder c Padikkal b Suyash 12, R Khan not out 7; **Extras: (w4) 4; Total:** (6 wkts, 15.5 ovrs) **158; FoW:** 1-42, 2-57, 3-92, 4-109, 5-111, 6-141; **Bowling:** Bhuvneshwar 4-0-28-3, Hazlewood 4-0-56-0, Suyash 3.5-0-44-1, Shepherd 4-0-30-2.

Result: GT won by 4 wkts

Parag penalised after being caught vaping

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Jaipur: Rajasthan Royals captain Riyan Parag has been fined 25% of his match fee and handed one demerit point after being caught using a vape inside the dressing room during the game against Punjab on Tuesday. Parag was found guilty of violating Article 2.21, which pertains to "conduct that brings the game into disrepute".

Riyan admitted to the offence and accepted the sanction imposed by match referee Amit Sharma, the BCCI said in a statement, adding that it was exploring the option of further punitive action. "The BCCI is also exploring other options to initiate proceedings for stringent action against the erring team, its officials and player/s to ensure that the reputation of IPL remains intact," the release added.

Parag's error of judgment comes less than two weeks after RR team manager Romi Bhinder was Rs 1 lakh for using his mobile phone in the team dugout.

Royals head coach Kumar Sangakkara broke his silence on the string of disciplinary issues, saying, "I think it is, of course, a reflection that is not positive on the team when you have a controversy of any kind. All I can say is that both of those have been addressed by the BCCI and the franchise.

"You always try to have a very positive, healthy culture. We have our own values that we adhere to. And the constant reminder to the players is to make sure that they are responsible to the franchise and to our culture and our values," Sangakkara added.

MCC okay with Angkrish dismissal

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Mumbai: The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), custodian of the Laws of Cricket, has defended the controversial decision to rule KKR batter Angkrish Raghuvanshi out for obstructing the field during a recent match. Issuing a formal clarification on Thursday, the London-based body stated that the dismissal met the criteria of a "wilful act" under Law 37.

The incident occurred during KKR's clash against LSG last Sunday. Raghuvanshi had set off for a single before being sent back by his partner. As he dived to regain his crease, the incoming throw struck him. After a review, third umpire Rohan Pandit adjudged him out, ruling that the batter had altered his line of running after spotting the throw.

Clarifying the law, the MCC referred to Law 37.1.1, which states that a batter is out if they "wilfully attempt to obstruct or distract the fielding side by word or action." It acknowledged that intent can often be difficult to judge but pointed to a long-standing interpretation published in Tom Smith's Cricket Umpiring and Scoring, MCC's official guide to the Laws.

The MCC said Raghuvanshi initially set off on the off side but then moved towards the middle of the pitch before turning back on the leg side, placing himself in the line between the ball and the stumps. "This is, by definition, a wilful act," the statement explained, adding that had he remained on his original path, the throw would not have struck him. Similarly, if he had run and returned on the same side of the pitch, the obstruction would not have been considered deliberate.

'Even Bumrah is allowed a bad season'

Pollard Backs MI's Misfiring Star Pacer To Bounce Back

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Mumbai: Mumbai Indians' IPL-2026 campaign is fast unravelling into another forgettable season, reminiscent of their last-place finishes in 2022 and 2024. Eight games in, MI have managed just two wins against six defeats and sit ninth on the table.

Their latest setback, a six-wicket loss to Sunrisers Hyderabad on Wednesday, will sting the most. Ryan Rickelton's unbeaten 123 off 52 balls powered MI to a record 243-5, but the effort was rendered futile as SRH chased it down for the loss of just four wickets in 18.4 overs, underlining MI's bowling struggles.

At the centre of that downturn is Jasprit Bumrah's uncharacteristic dip in returns. The spearhead has picked up only two wickets in eight matches so far. His economy rate of 8.80 remains the best among MI bowlers, but his lack of breakthroughs has hurt the side. Against SRH, he finished wicketless again, conceding 54 in his four overs.

However, MI batting coach Kieron Pollard urged perspective, backing the premier fast bowler to turn things around. Responding to questions around Bumrah's form and whether a dip in pace has played a role, Pollard stressed that even elite cricketers are entitled to lean phases.

UNFLATTERING NUMBERS

Bumrah in IPL (From June 1, 2025-April 30, 2026)

	M	Overs	Md	Runs	Wkts	Ave	Best	SR	ER
Overall	9	34	0	304	2	152	1/15	102	8.9
In wins	2	7	0	50	1	50	1/15	42	7.1
In losses	7	27	0	254	1	254	1/31	162	9.4
IPL-2026	8	30	0	264	2	132	1/15	90	8.8

2 wickets for Bumrah this season, his least after the first eight matches of an IPL edition. Having failed to take a wicket in the last match of the 2025 season, he remained wicketless in six successive IPL matches for the first time between 1-6-2025 & 16-4-2026.

54 runs conceded by Bumrah in his four-over spell vs SRH at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai on April 29, 2026, his most expensive without taking a single wicket in an IPL game.

Stats: Rajesh Kumar

"When a cricketer is not doing well, we analyse every aspect, and Bumrah is no different. But he has performed at the highest level for years. As human beings, you are allowed to have a bad day, a bad season or even a couple of tough months," Pollard said. "Yes, we live in the present, and he hasn't been at his best, but he has been the No. 1 bowler for Mumbai Indians and India over a long period. We sometimes forget the good things players have done. Because we are in the public eye, every poor performance gets magnified," he added.

Pollard expressed confidence that Bumrah will bounce back. "In normal jobs, if you make a mistake, you can correct it quietly. We don't have that luxury. Everything is visible. Knowing Bumrah, he will come back stronger, take wickets, and everyone will be chanting his name again, for MI and for India. So yes, let's cut him some slack," he said.

On the high-scoring nature of the Wankhede pitch, Pollard refused to offer excuses. "There's no point complaining about conditions. Both teams play on the same surface. It comes down to who plays better cricket. The spirit in the dressing room is still strong. The players want to fight," he said.

Admitting inconsistency has been MI's biggest flaw, Pollard maintained that the side hasn't given up yet. "There's still a belief that we can turn things around," he signed off.

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PENALTY NOTICE

Arsenal Survive Atletico Madrid Cauldron & Another Bizarre VAR Decision

AFP

LEAD ROLE: Arsenal's Gyokeres strikes his penalty past Jan Oblak to send Arsenal ahead at halftime

SEMIFINAL 1ST LEG

ATLETICO 1 ARSENAL 1

John Cross

Madrid: This semifinal will go the full distance.

We did not get the goals of the previous night in Paris but it did get plenty of rows, devilment and an intriguing battle which will go all square and honours even into next week's second leg.

Two penalties, another overturned, and Arsenal will feel as if they were hard done by and probably did enough to win. But, ultimately, Mikel Arteta would have taken this result before the game and they still have a great chance.

Viktor Gyokeres produced one of his best performances in an Arsenal shirt, Noni Madueke was sharp and menacing while Gabriel Martinelli's pace got him behind the Atletico defence. This was what Arsenal needed against all the prematch chat about Atletico striker Julian Alvarez and how they could do with him this summer.

Gyokeres worked exceptionally hard and his penalty took him to 19 goals this season. It was still cagey and something of a war of attrition.

It is still a test for any team in the Metropolitano because the stadium is loud, intimidating and has produced some big scalps down the years. This, incredibly, was their fourth Champions League semifinal under boss Diego Simeone. They also know how to manage games. Atletico turned the sprinklers to soak the pitch beforehand.

Arsenal knew there was no room for excuses. Alvarez did look sharp and his clever turn and shot produced a fine early save from keeper David Raya. But from then on, the first half belonged to Arsenal. Gyokeres was clearly pushed in the back by David Hancko and referee Danny Makkelie gave a penalty after a VAR check.

One thing Gyokeres is very good at is penalties and the £64million man smashed it home beyond Atletico keeper Jan Oblak.

But at half-time, Simeone did the most Simeone thing possible. He substituted his own son Giuliano and brought on Robin Le Normand to go five at the back.

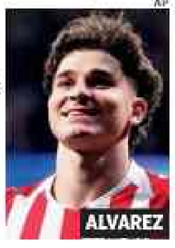
Atletico were immediately miles better. Ademola Lookman was denied by Raya and Gabriel made a great block from Antoine Griezmann's follow-up. The reprieve did not last long. Marcos Llorente's shot hit Ben White, deflected onto his arm and the stadium screamed for a penalty. It was given after a VAR check and Alvarez smashed it home. Griezmann smashed the bar.

But the Gunners did think they had a late penalty after Hancko's challenge on Eberechi Eze which the referee gave - only to overturn it after a VAR check. No wonder Arsenal were furious. DAILY MIRROR

A CAGEY AFFAIR

The game was defined by penalty drama and tactical rigour, with both goals coming from the spot.

Atletico		Arsenal
2.21	Expected goals (xG)	1.51
1	Goals	1
18	Total shots	11
4	Shots on target	2
52%	Possession	48%
3	Big chances	2
112.4 km	Distance covered	110.3 km


AP

ALVAREZ

Atletico dominance: Their xG* of 2.21 was the second-highest any team has recorded against Arsenal across competitions this season.

(*expected goals)

KEY MOMENTS

14'	Alvarez forces Raya saves
44'	Gyokeres powers in penalty
49'	Alvarez close with curling free-kick
53'	Lookman denied, Griezmann shot blocked
56'	Alvarez equalises with perfect penalty
63'	Griezmann hits woodwork
74'	Lookman denied by Raya
90+4'	Molina fizzes over

1 This was the first Champions League knockout game since the 2001 final where all goals scored came via penalties.

25 Alvarez has scored 25 goals in 41 UCL matches, surpassing Messi, who scored his 25th goal in his 42nd match, followed by Sergio Aguero, who achieved this milestone in 48 matches.

Can DC break RR's win spree today?

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ANI

IN FORM: Sooryavanshi

Jaipur: Rajasthan Royals and Delhi Capitals will step out on the Sawai Mansingh Stadium on Friday on the back of two contrasting results. While Royals had a near perfect game en route to handing the season's first loss to table toppers Punjab Kings in New Chandigarh on Tuesday, Delhi Capitals crashed to an embarrassing defeat against Royal Challengers Bengaluru a day before in their own backyard.

After cracking the Punjab Kings code on their home turf, Royals are high on confidence and would like to

PREVIEW

boost their chances of entering the playoffs with yet another win against struggling DC, who have lost their last three matches in a row.

The best thing to happen for the Riyan Parag-led side was the success of the middle order. The top-order of Yashasvi Jaiswal, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Dhruv Jurel did the heavy-lifting at the start of the season but now things seem to be evening out.

The clinical finishing by Donovan Ferreira and 'impact' sub Shubham Dubey helped their team chase down a challenging 223-run target in the previous outing to notch up their sixth win of the season in nine matches. The tense win not only helped RR stay in the top-4 but also gave them much-needed momentum as they approached the business end of the tournament.

Riyan Parag played a brief but impactful knock against Punjab Kings that could provide a timely boost to his confidence. Even head coach Kumar Sangakkara acknowledged the little cameo of the skipper against Punjab Kings. "Riyan played a very crucial innings which really gave the momentum to the chase. His brief knock came at a critical time. Donovan and Shubham then carried on to help us carve out a big win," Sangakkara said.

On the other hand, DC find themselves on the backfoot, having registered only three wins from eight ties so far. Placed seventh in the standings, the Axar Patel-led side will be eager to arrest the slide with a win on Friday. If the visitors have to keep their chances of playoffs alive, they have to forget the RCB defeat as quickly as possible and make a fresh start.

STARC IN FOR DC

Pace ace Mitchell Starc is set to return after getting clearance from Cricket Australia. With Lungi Ngidi still unavailable due to his head injury, Starc's inclusion comes as a timely boost.

SNAP SHOTS

India pip Slovakia

Indian men staged a spirited comeback to edge past Slovakia 3-2 in a Group 7 tie at the ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships in London. India climbed to the top of the group standings and strengthened their position ahead of their next tie against Guatemala. **Result:** India 3 bt Slovakia 2 (Lubomir Pistej bt Manush Shah 11-8, 5-11, 8-11, 11-5, 11-6; Manav Thakkar bt Jakub Zelinka 11-6, 11-8, 11-6; Wang Yang bt Harmeet Desai 16-14, 11-5, 11-9; Manav bt Lubomir 11-3, 11-3, 11-3; Manush bt Jakub 11-8, 11-8, 11-7.

Draper to miss French Open: Briton Jack Draper will not compete at next month's French Open as he continues to recover from a knee injury, the former world No. 4 said on Wednesday. The 24-year-old left-hander was forced to retire midway through his first-round match against Argentina's Tomas Etcheverry at the Barcelona Open earlier this month due to a problem with his right leg.

Saudi to end LIV Golf funding: Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund will stop financing LIV Golf at the end of the 2026 season, throwing the future of the breakaway tour into serious doubt, US media reported on Wednesday. LIV Golf, founded in 2022 as a main rival to the PGA Tour, plans to inform staff and players on Thursday that the Saudi Public Investment Fund will no longer bankroll the circuit beyond this summer, The Wall Street Journal said.

Sangakkara, Mahanama in interim committee: Former Sri Lanka internationals Kumar Sangakkara, Roshan Mahanama and Sidath Wettimuny were named in the nine-member transformation committee that will run Sri Lanka Cricket, a day after the previous leadership resigned from their posts. Former state minister and businessman Eran Wickramaratne was named as the chairman of the new interim committee.

Young to retire: Former England forward Ashley Young said he will retire at the end of the season, bringing the curtain down on a career spanning more than two decades. The 40-year-old, currently at Championship side Ipswich Town, made more than 750 club appearances and scored 88 goals across spells with Watford, Aston Villa, Manchester United, Inter Milan and Everton.

Parker leaves Burnley: Scott Parker has left his position as head coach of Burnley by mutual consent following the club's relegation from the Premier League, it was announced on Thursday. Parker led the Clarets to promotion to the Premier League last year but this season was a struggle, with the team winning just four league games in total.

Mainoo signs new contract: Manchester United's Kobbie Mainoo signed a new contract that will keep him at Old Trafford until 2031, the club said on Thursday.

'India U-17 very close to WC qualification'

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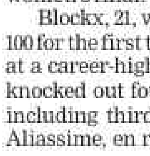
Panaji: India U-17 coach Bibiano Fernandes believes his team is in great shape to punch above their weight and become the first to qualify for the FIFA World Cup on sporting merit. A win against Iran in the qualifiers showed India's potential in the age group and Bibiano's team now needs just a win — against Australia (May 6) or Uzbekistan (May 10) in group D in Jeddah — to qualify for the FIFA U-17 World Cup.

Following North Korea's withdrawal due to security concerns in Saudi Arabia, the group has been left with just three teams, two of whom will qualify for the knockout stage and make it to the World Cup. "Looks like we are very close," Bibiano told TOI over a video call from Qatar.

"Since the first batch (in 2018), we have done well, even qualified for the quarterfinals. Why not now? After so many years, I'm sure India have done well in terms of development. This is a good batch, promising, and we saw what they can do in the qualifiers (against Iran). "We are all hopeful that we can come up with one inspiring performance that can change everything." India's only participation at the FIFA World Cup came in 2017 when the country hosted the U-17 competition, losing all three games against Ghana, Colombia and the United States. "We know that one win now can take us to the World Cup, but we need to be at our best, like against Iran, to secure a win. We are working hard, and I think our boys will deliver," said Bibiano, who side managed two draws against Qatar earlier this week.

Bibiano's confidence stems from India's strong performances under him since 2018, when the team finished among the top eight in Asia.

Blockx sends Ruud home



Up-and-coming Belgian **Alexander Blockx** ended the title defence of Casper Ruud by defeating the former world number two 6-4, 6-4 to reach the Madrid Open semifinals on Thursday, while Mirra Andreeva booked her spot in the women's final.

Blockx, 21, who broke into the top 100 for the first time last month and is at a career-high 69 in the world, has knocked out four consecutive seeds, including third-seeded Felix Auger-Aliassime, en route to the final four. Blockx is through to his first tour-level semi-final and is the first Belgian man in tournament history to make it this far at the Madrid Open.

Meanwhile, Andreeva's remarkable clay-court campaign continued with a strong 6-4, 7-6 (10/8) performance against Aryna Sabalenka's conqueror Hailey Baptiste, which sent the Russian into her first Madrid final. AFP

Fair pitches will make IPL boring: Murali

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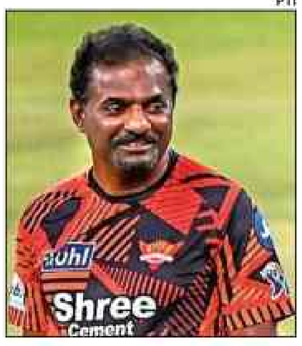

PTI

WISE WORDS: Muralitharan

Mumbai: On a night when Sunrisers Hyderabad chased down a daunting 243 against Mumbai Indians with eight balls and six wickets to spare, spin bowling great Muttiah Muralitharan admitted that modern T20 cricket has tilted so heavily in favour of batters that even legends like himself or Shane Warne

MAKING A POINT

would have struggled to contain the scoring.

Reflecting on how he and the late Australian great might have fared in today's game, Muralitharan said the evolution in power-hitting has fundamentally altered the balance. "We would have turned the ball, but we wouldn't have made a big dent. Maybe we would have got one or two wickets, but conceding 40 runs would have been normal because the pitches are so good," he said after the match.

"In today's T20S, if a spinner goes for 40, you would say he has bowled well. Earlier, power-hitting wasn't at this level. You can't compare eras," added the Sri Lankan legend, who has 800 Test wickets and 534 ODI scalps to his name. Wednesday's run-fest at the Wankhede Stadium was a telling example of the modern trend. A staggering 492 runs were scored in just 38.4 overs, with bowlers managing only nine wickets. Abhishek Sharma (45 off 24), Travis Head (76 off 30), Heinrich Klaasen (65 n.o off 30) and Salil Arora (30 n.o off 10) powered SRH to their fifth straight win in a relentless display of hitting.

Muralitharan pointed out that the biggest shift lies in the mindset. Batters today, he said, are fearless from ball one, regardless of the bowler. He cited the example of young Salil Arora launching a no-look six off Jasprit Bumrah, one of the world's premier pacers. "Earlier, a youngster facing Bumrah would think survival first. Now, the first thought is how to hit a six," he said. "That confidence has come because players have shown this is the way to play. So bowlers have very little margin. Even if you bowl well, you can still be hit because of the conditions and pitches," he added.

The off-spin legend urged bowlers to adapt rather than complain. "Every team now has openers who go hard immediately. Earlier, 40-50 in six overs was good; now it's 70-80. Bowlers must improve accuracy and keep working. On some days you will succeed, but you must accept this is the reality of T20 cricket," he said.

Perhaps most strikingly, Muralitharan suggested that restoring balance between bat and ball in the IPL may not be feasible, given the league's entertainment-driven nature. "If you prepare fair wickets, spectators may find it boring. T20 fans want fours and sixes. The IPL is a big business; sponsors, audiences, everything depends on entertainment. Changing that could hurt interest," he said.

Selection row leaves 40 boxers in limbo

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New Delhi: The future of 40 promising boxers hangs by a thread due to an administrative bout between the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the sport's national federation, BFI. Their participation in the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya looks increasingly doubtful.

At the heart of the dispute lies the 2nd Chief of Army Staff (COAS)

GLOVES OFF

Cup, held from March 30-April 5 at the Army Sports Institute (ASI), Pune. The BFI had designated this event as a crucial second pathway for entry into the national coaching camp starting April 2026. According to selection policy, gold and silver medallists across 20 categories (10 men and 10 women) from the meet will directly compete in the final selection trials for the CWG and Asiad at NIS Patiala from May 11-15.

These trials are set to determine India's boxing contingent for two multisport events, drawing top names such as Nikhat Zareen, Lovlina Borgohain, Nitu Ghanghas, Hitesh Gulia, Jadumani Singh and Pawan Barthwal, among others. However, a dispute erupted when SAI refused to recognise the COAS Cup, labelling it a "closed-door" event. According to SAI officials, the tournament was restricted to boxers affiliated with the armed forces or training within Army facilities. "Such events cannot be considered fair selection pathways," a SAI source argued, emphasising that athletes who rise through district, state, and national competitions would be unfairly sidelined. Without SAI's sanction, the 40 medal-winning boxers are barred from trials, extinguishing their hopes of representing India.

Double delight for Rishik & Vaibhav

Bengaluru: Rishik Sai and Vaibhav Rao clinched a double in the boys' section of the State U-11&13 badminton tournament, which concluded here on Thursday. In the U-11 singles title decider, Rishik eased past Atharva Sahoo 21-11, 21-15. He then paired up with Atharva to defeat the pair of Nihaan Mandanna and Saathvik Reddy 21-15, 21-12 in the doubles final.

Continuing the impressive show in the U-13 section, Vaibhav put up a dominant show, downing Rishik Boligarla 21-12, 21-11 for the singles crown. Partnering Manvith Adesh, he went on

STATE BADMINTON

to win the doubles title against Guna Aaditya P and Sandeep Bayar with a 21-7, 21-15 scoreline.

Results (All finals): Boys: U-11: Singles: Rishik Sai (B'luru-R) bt Atharva Sahoo (B'luru-R) 21-11, 21-15; **Doubles:** Atharva Sahoo/Rishik Sai (B'luru-R) bt Nihaan Mandanna/Saathvik Reddy (B'luru-U) 21-15, 21-12. **U-13: Boys: Singles:** Vaibhav Rao (B'luru-U) bt Rishik Boligarla (B'luru-U) 21-12, 21-11; **Doubles:** Manvith Adesh/Vaibhav Rao (B'luru-U) bt Guna Aaditya/ Sandeep Bayar (B'luru-U) 21-7, 21-15. **Girls: U-11: Singles:** Jyotsna Vinod (B'luru-U) bt Amitha Reddy (B'luru-U) 21-7, 21-7; **Doubles:** Shanaya VS/Yuvika Thamaya (Kodagu) bt Jyotsna Vinod/ Krisha Singhadeo (B'luru-U) 21-19, 16-21, 22-20. **U-13: Singles:** Shreeya A Rao (B'luru-U) bt Sihi Adarsh (Hassan) 17-21, 21-16, 21-7; **Doubles:** Shaanvi PN/Shambhavi Sharma (DK) bt Hanvittha KA/ Stuthi Shetty (B'luru-R) 21-11, 21-18. TNN

Burevestnik for feature

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Sulaiman Attaollahi-trained Burevestnik, to be ridden by Trvor Patel, looks good for the International Labour Day Trophy, the feature event on the opening day of the summer season at the Bangalore Turf Club here on Friday. First race starts at 3 pm.

Selections: 1. The Camino Plate Div II - 1200M: Zayana 1, Tyaaraa 2. **2. The Epsom Plate Div II - 1300mM:** Adornment 1, Vibrant Queen 2. **3. The Camino Plate Div I - 1200M:** Agrima 1, Zephyrine 2. **4. The Pattadakal Plate - 1400M:** Thrill Of Brazil 1, Gandolfini 2. **5. The International Labour Day Trophy - 1100M:** Burevestnik 1; Deep Respect 2. **6. The Usha Stud Plate - 1400M:** Eagle Eye 1, Tolkien 2. **7. The Epsom Plate Div I - 1300M:** Hazel 1, Larissa 2. **Day's best:** Eagle Eye.
Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.
Mini Jackpot: 4, 5, 6 & 7.
1st Treble: 2, 3 & 4.
2nd Treble: 5, 6, & 7.

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Gritty PPC battle past MNK Rao Park

Times News Network

Bengaluru: PPC staged a defiant comeback, thwarting MNK Rao Park Basketball Club's challenge in the super league stage of the boys competition at the State sub-junior basketball championship for the BS Narayan Memorial Trophy here on Thursday. Trailing 24-28 at half-time, PCC regrouped to prevail 60-55. For the winners, Narrun with 21 points was the top scorer.

In the girls' section, Beagles BC registered a 26-15 win over YOSC. Beagles' strong defence and better coordination helped them stay ahead in the low-scoring contest. The game began on even terms, with Beagles edging ahead. YOSC offered stiff resistance by intercepting passes and blocking shots regularly.

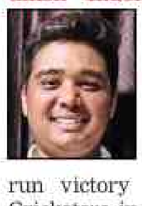
However, after halftime, Beagles looked organised. They secured crucial rebounds and improved their ball movement. Their sharp passing allowed them to create better scoring opportunities. Arya, with 12 points, was the standout performer for Beagles. **Results: Boys:** PPC 60 (Narrun 21, Daiwik 19, Dhawan 10) bt MNK Rao Park BC 55 (Shreshta 14, Padmanabhan 13, Yansh 13) HT: 24-28; Bangalore Vanguards 61 (Chayank 19, Neil 11) bt Beagles BC 45 (Advait 15) HT: 38-15; Vimanapura SC 57 (Rakshith 18, Nirvair Vir 13, Taksha 12) bt Bangalore Vanguards 30 (Chayank 10) HT: 29-18; MCHS 56 (Shashvath 13, Divit 12) bt PPC 42 (Daiwik 19, Dhawan 15) HT: 24-21.
Girls: Mounts Club 71 (Kenisha 19, Devishi 12, Antara 12) bt Young Orion's SC 22 (Aisiri 5) HT: 47-11; MCHS 36 (Swarali 14) bt Viveks SC 31 (Anantha 11, Pahal 11) HT: 22-14; Beagles BC 26 (Ayra 12) bt Young Orion's SC 15 (Samara 4) HT: 12-9; Bangalore Vanguards 61 (Aarushi 23, Harshada 15) MCHS 53 (Akshaya 15, Swarali 15, Kanira 11) HT: 26-21. **—Jia Khosla**

Syed Asif

Saanvi Mishra of Young Orions (R) in action

Ruchitaksh powers VCC to big victory

Times News Network



Bengaluru: Captain **Ruchitaksh Inderkar** scored a quickfire double century (245; 121b; 35x4; 11x6) to power Visweswarapuram CC (VCC) to a 243-run victory against Young Cricketers in the KSCA U-16 inter-club tournament at the HAL ground here recently. Visweswarapuram, who opted to bat, piled 421/4 in 46 overs. In reply, Young Cricketers (1) folded up for 178 in 43.2 overs.

Visweswarapuram's massive total was courtesy opener Ruchitaksh's 245, which included 35 hits to the ropes and 11 over it. Ruchitaksh's innings was backed up by Chiranth (54n.o) and the duo stitched a partnership of 179 for the third wicket.

KSCA INTER-CLUB

Young Cricketers were never in the chase, as Samar Veer Vinod led the bowling attack for Visweswarapuram. While Samar returned 4 for 10, Pradyumna Boyapati (3/22) and Shreeharisingh PR (2/28) shared five wickets between them. Brijeshkumar Nirmal was the lone bright spark for the vanquished with a half-century.

Brief scores: Visweswarapuram CC (2): 421/4 in 46 overs (Ruchitaksh Indrekar 245 (121b; 35x4; 11x6), Chiranth Gowda 54n.o, Dakshath Gowda 38, Ved Mishra 27, Cherish Kumar 29n.o) **bt Young Cricketers (1): 178 all out in 43.2 overs** (Brijeshkumar Nirmal 61; Pradyumna Boyapati 3-32, Samar Veer Vinod 4-10, Shreeharisingh PR 2-28). **Hammonds CC: 175 all out in 46.2 overs** (Aryaman Goel 33, Preetham HG 78; Shravan Reddy 2-24, Saketh Hoskere 2-22, P Yateesh 2-22, Aditya Yadav 2-9) **lost to Herons CC: 177/4 in 41.2 overs** (Bhavith R 53, Niraj V 35, P Yateesh 32; S Miteesh 2-29). **Jupiter Cricketers Association: 181 all out in 45.1 overs** (Nikhil Sangam 110 (112b; 18x4); Eric Rupreo 3-32, Vaidhyanathan Vadula 2-48) **lost to Coles CC: 181/4 in 23.2 overs** (Agam Jot Singh 84n.o). **Bharath CC (U-16): 196 all out in 43.2 overs** (Kaushik Kundapur 34, Kaushik Neergunda 25, Dev Gowda 29; Sidhanth Shetty 3-32, Mitansh Singh 2-33, Samarth Warad 3-32, Abhay Chavan 2-18) **bt Cavaliers CC: 107 all out in 30.2 overs** (Abhay Chavan 35; Kaushik Neergunda 3-12, Haren Patel 4-16). **Bangalore Sports Club: 412/5 in 50 overs** (Tanshh Krishna M 110 (116b; 14x4), Pavandeep R Bharadakane 114 (77b;18x4), Viaan Joshi 49, Ishaan Bohra 57, Pravin Patil 49n.o; Ajay Kumara 2-64) **bt Bangalore Star Cricket Association: 126 all out in 36.4 overs** (Hemakesh Reddy 35, Ajay Kumara 29; Saurjyesh Das 3-17, Sangam Singh 3-19, Vikram 2-25, Krishna 2-22). **Vultures CC: 300/8 in 50 overs** (Anirudh M Bangera 102 (101b;13x4; 1x6), Diganth NR 54, Arjun Balu 61, Karun Hugar 26; Suriyha M 3-44, Haadi Khan 2-46) **bt Modern CC: 111 all out in 26 overs** (Keshav Hebbar 35; Swayam Shabadi 3-16, Aarav Singh 2-35). **Century Cricketers: 121 all out in 39.1 overs** (Siddharth Kona 2-14, Swastik Ekhe 3-23, Atharva Deviprasad 2-23) **lost to Visweswarapuram CC (1): 122/1 in 20.5 overs** (Sanjit Sathish 72n.o). **The Bangalore Cricketers: 161 all out in 35.5 overs** (Ayup Singh Kunwar 41; Anirudh Katige 4-33, Tanay Jabin 3-20, Vivaan Gupta 2-26) **lost to Malleswaram Gymkhana: 162/6 in 42.2 overs** (Yuvaraj N 40, Koman Prasad 28, Anirudh Katige 25n.o). **Merchants CC (1): 89 all out in 32.5 overs** (Jeevan G 5-26, Rahul Jena 2-25, Usman Shareef 2-12) **lost to Young Lions Club: 94/3 in 15.2 overs** (Jasim Rahman 34, Raunak Singh 28n.o).

Coles clinch thriller, enter quarterfinals

Times News Network

Bengaluru: In a contest that went down to the wire, Coles Cricket Club edged out Palar Sports Club, Kolar, in the Super Over to enter the quarterfinals of the KSCA G Kasturirangan Memorial T20 tournament.

At the KSCA Alur (1) ground, batting first, Coles piled a competitive 210/7 with Gowtham Sagar topscoring with an unbeaten 58.

In reply, the seasoned Ritesh Bhatkal scored a fine half-century (51) to take Palar closer to the target. With Gowtham and S Suraj claiming two wickets apiece, Palar too ended their 20 overs on 210. In the Super Over, Palar wilted under pressure and managed one run, which was overhauled in a ball by Coles.

Brief scores (pre-quarters): Coles CC: 210/7 in 20 overs (Sharath BR 27, Pallav Kumar Das 31, Sagar Solanki 42, Gowtham Sagar 58 n.o; Ambresh K 2-38, Punitkumar 2-49) **vs Palar SC, Kolar: 210/4 in 20 overs** (Ritesh Bhatkal 51, Chiranth D 38, Thippa Reddy 40, Sudhanwa Kulkarni 34 n.o, Preetesh 37 n.o.; Gowtham Sagar 2-40, S Suraj 2-28). **Super over: Palar: 1 in 0.3 overs lost to Coles CC: 2 for no loss in 0.1 over. South End SC: 136 all out in 19.4 overs** (Abhay Surya 31, Prajwal R 28; Vidwath Kaverappa 3-12, Kumar LR 3-17, Rajendra Danganavar 2-38) **lost to Sir Syed Cricketers: 142/6 in 15.4 overs** (Nikin Jose 50, Mohith BA 29, Akshath Prabhakar 36 n.o.; Ranjan MS 3-15). **Bangalore Occasionals: 235/5 in 20 overs** (Bhuvan Raju 29, Niranjan 57, Faizan Khan 32n.o, Rajvir Wadhwa 63 n.o; Darshan MB 2-57, Likhit Bannur 2-35) **bt Mount Joy CC: 103/8 in 16.5 overs** (Vinay Maski 25n.o, Koushik V 2-18). **Swastic Union CC (1): 186/5 in 20 overs** (Prakhar Chaturvedi 32, Rohan Patil 30, Nitish Arya 62, Sanmay Rudrawadi 36 n.o; Santhosh S 2-17) **bt Rajajinagar Cricketers: 158/8 in 20 overs** (Nihal Ulla! 34, Vaasav Venkatesh 51 n.o; Abhilash 2-33, Nischith Rao 2-40, Paras Arya 2-25). **Friends Union CC (1): 205/3 in 20 overs** (Rohan RR 62, Adarsh Manure 80, Sidharth Akhil 34n.o, Agastya S 2-33) **lost to Vijaya CC: 208/4 in 18.1 overs** (Dhruv Krishnan 27, Anvay Dravid 107 (46b; 7x4; 7x6), Yashovardhan Parantap 28 n.o; Anil IG 2-20) by 6 wickets. **Century Cricketers: 199/6 in 20 overs** (Karthik CA 24, Harsha Khuba 27, Madhav Bajaj 72 n.o, Rohit RV 55; Pranav Aswath 2-26) **bt Cambridge CC: 169/9 in 20 overs** (Chinmay NA 73; Karthik CA 2-24, Madhav Bajaj 3-25, Harsha 2-23).

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THE TIMES

INCLUSIVE OF BANGALORE TIMES |

"LET THE TIME COME": CONGRESS PRESIDENT MALLIKARJUN KHARGE SAYS SIDDARAMAIAH WILL CONTINUE AS K'TAKA CM FOR NOW 6

K'taka govt clears ₹18k-crore GBA suburban township

Bengaluru: Karnataka govt Thursday cleared the Rs 18,000-crore Greater Bengaluru integrated suburban township project, conceived as a 'work-live-play' plan. The 7,481-acre township will span the entire Bengaluru South district, including Bidadi and Ramanagara. Nearly 6,650 acres of land has to be acquired from private parties.

The project will see the govt stand guarantee for Rs 7,500 crore to be raised from housing finance institution Hudco, with the rest coming from BDA and monetisation of CA sites within Bengaluru Metropolitan Region Development Authority by mortgaging sites to banks.

According to law minister HK Patil, the cabinet approved the compensation plan of over Rs 2 crore per acre or developed land of 9,693 square feet of developed property in lieu of one acre given for the project. TNN

Wall collapse: CM suspends engr, orders notice to hosp

Street Vendors Told To Stay Off Unsafe Structures In B'luru

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A day after seven persons died when a compound wall of Bowring Hospital crashed on them following heavy rain on Wednesday, CM Siddaramaiah has ordered suspension of an executive engineer, tightened safety measures and ordered eviction of vendors from near unsteady and dangerous structures.

The action follows a high-level review meeting at Vidhana Soudha Thursday attended by senior ministers, including deputy CM DK Shivakumar, and senior civic officials. The CMO said the engineer from Karnataka Health Systems Development Project held responsible for the lapse has been suspended with immediate effect.

Pulling up Bowring Hospital over alleged supervision failures, Siddaramaiah directed authorities to issue notice to the hospital over soil dumping near the weakened wall. "Why was mud allowed to be piled up when it could weaken the structure?" he asked, holding both engineering staff and hospital authorities accountable.

▶Locations mapped, P 4

Photo: PTI

Book lovers made their way to Bookworm on Church Street Thursday morning, hours after heavy rain damaged over 5,000 books. Drawn by an online post or by word of mouth, students, customers, and even fellow booksellers showed up to clean up the mess | FULL COVERAGE: P 4

Six get death in Koppal BJP neta's murder case

Koppal: A first additional district and sessions court in Gangavathi Thursday sentenced six persons to death and fined them Rs 3 lakh each for the murder of BJP Yuva Morcha city unit president Venkatesh Kurubar aka JNN Venki last Oct. Six others were acquitted for lack of evidence. The court directed that the fine be paid to the victim's family.

Judge Sadanand Nagappa Nayak delivered the verdict after a brief 15-minute hearing and symbolically broke his pen. Family members of the convicts broke down in court.

The convicts have the option to appeal in the high court. Kurubar, 31, was killed on Oct 8, 2025, near Leelavati Hospital on Raichur-Lingsugur Road in Gangavathi. TNN

6 OTHERS ACQUITTED

- **Gangavathi court** sentences six persons to death for Venkatesh Kurubar's murder, asks **each convict to pay ₹3 lakh to victim's family**
- **Acquits six others due to lack of evidence**; convicts can appeal in high court
- Sessions court finds the **murder was premeditated and driven by personal enmity**

▶ Premeditated killing, P 5

'CBI arresting only ADAG officials and not kingpin'

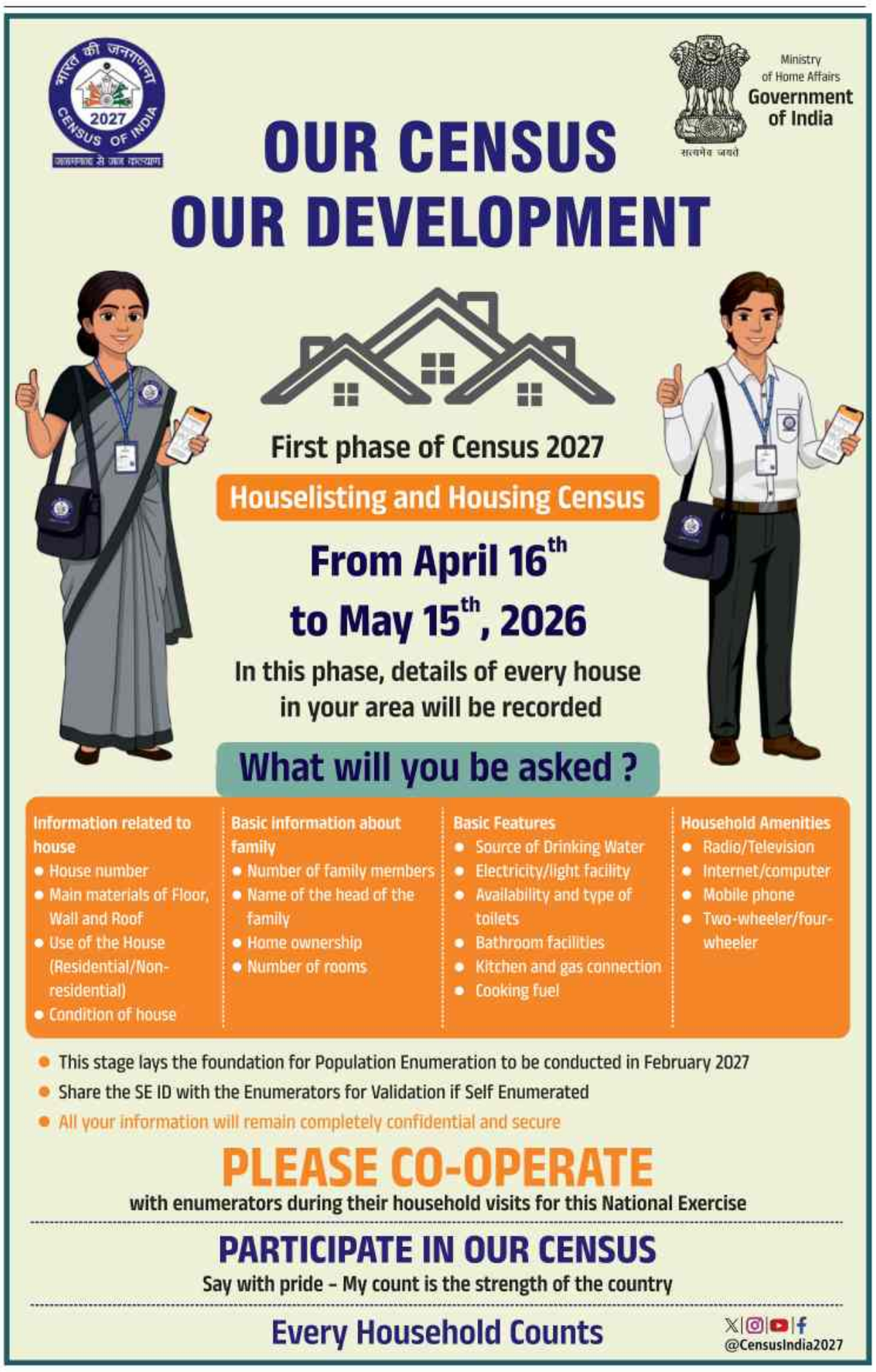
New Delhi: A petitioner on whose PIL SC directed CBI and ED to probe the alleged siphoning of Rs 40,000 crore from bank loans by various Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group companies, Thursday complained to the court that the agencies have only been arresting officials of the corporate and not the kingpin.

After advocate Prashant Bhushan's complaint, SG Tushar Mehta said CBI could not complete probe within four weeks as promised earlier because of discovery of certain new facts and dimensions in the case and handed over the probe status reports by CBI and ED to a bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justice J Bagchi. "I will not be able to respond to the allegation as to why some are arrested and why not others," Mehta said. TNN

IN THE COURTS

- Top court says **hate speech strikes at root of fraternity, plurality and multiculturalism** | Inside flap
- SC **reserves verdict on anticipatory bail of Cong's Pawan Khera** | Inside flap
- Bombay **HC orders ₹25k relief for illegal arrest** of 70-year-old man | Inside flap

▶ Next hearing, P 13



From school to PG, girls now outnumber boys: NSO data

Participation Still Relatively Low In STEM Fields

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New Delhi: India is closing long-standing gender gaps in education, with girls now outnumbering boys at all levels, from school to higher education, the latest National Statistics Office (NSO) data reveals. However, the transition remains uneven, with women's participation still relatively low in STEM fields.

The report, 'Women and men in India 2025', shows the female gross enrolment ratio (GER) exceeding male GER at all school stages and women accounting for nearly 51.5% of total higher education pass-outs, even as the overall literacy gender gap remains at 14.4 percentage points.

The data underscores a clear generational shift.

While the overall literacy gap remains wide, it narrows sharply to 3.8 percentage points among youth aged 15–24, reflecting faster gains among younger cohorts.

This marks a steady progression from earlier decades, with female literacy rising from 30.6% in 1981 to over 70% in recent estimates, though still trailing national male literacy levels.

At the school level, gender parity has effectively been achieved across primary to higher secondary stages, with girls not only matching, but exceeding boys in enrolment. Under the national education policy (NEP) framework, female enrolment is higher across foundational, preparatory, middle and secondary stages, while adjusted net enrolment rates (ANER) for girls at the secondary level have also surpassed boys in recent years.

Dropout rates for both genders have declined between 2022-23 and 2024-25, with sharper reductions at preparatory and middle stages, although secondary-stage dropouts remain comparatively higher.

In higher education, the trend is gradually tilting in favour of women. Female GER increased from 28.5% to 30.2%, compared to a smaller rise for males from 28.3% to 28.9% between 2021-22 and 2022-23. Women now account for a marginal majority of total pass-outs, with particularly high representation at advanced levels such as MPhil (76.14%), and over half of undergraduate and postgraduate completions.

However, participation remains uneven across disciplines. Women are concentrated in arts, sciences, social sciences and medical streams, while men continue to dominate engineering, technology, IT and management, reflecting persistent segmentation in career pathways.

Learning outcomes show a mixed pattern. Girls consistently outperform boys in languages and board examination pass percentages, while boys perform better in mathematics, particularly at higher grades. At the same time, female participation in higher education now spans over half of total enrolments in several disciplines, signalling broader access even as subject choices remain skewed.

Despite improvements in access and participation, structural gaps remain. The mean years of schooling for women stands at 7.4 years, compared to an overall average of 8.4 years. Average annual expenditure is higher for boys (Rs 13,901) than for girls (Rs 12,101).

76% IN MPHIL WOMEN

- During 2021-22 to '22-23, **female gross enrolment ratio in higher education rose from 28.5% to 30.2%**, male GER from 28.3% to 28.9%. At MPhil level, 76.1% students were women
- School **dropout rates dipped for both genders** between 2022-23 and 2024-25
- **Women** are concentrated in **arts, sciences, medical** streams; **men** continue to dominate **engg, IT, mgmt**

Delhi HC freezes Sunjay Kapur's ₹30kcr assets till 'doubts settled'

New Delhi: The onus of disproving suspicions about the legitimacy of late businessman Sunjay Kapur's purported will lies on his wife Priya Kapur, Delhi high court said Thursday, directing that his Rs 30,000-crore estate be frozen until all doubts are settled, **reports Abhinav Garg**.

"The legitimate suspicious circumstances raised by the plaintiffs will have to be completely removed by defendant number one (Priya Kapur) before the document is accepted as the last will," Justice Jyoti Singh said. She said the plaintiffs had "made out a prima facie case the assets need to be protected and preserved pending disposal of the suit".

Priya's claims citing the will have been challenged by Sunjay's children from his previous marriage to actor Karisma Kapoor. If the assets aren't preserved and Priya ultimately fails to prove the will's validity, Sunjay and Karisma's children Samaira and Kiaan, besides his mother Rani Kapur, would be deprived of their legitimate share of the estate, the judge said.

The interim order freezes equity shareholdings in three Indian companies held by the deceased and restrains disposal of his personal effects, including artwork.

Priya has been barred from drawing from her late husband's provident fund or touching funds in his Indian bank accounts unless the withdrawals are to meet Sunjay's obligations related to his divorce from Karisma. The court also barred her from operating foreign bank accounts and cryptocurrency assets.

The order isn't binding on Sunjay's immovable foreign assets. Priya's legal team had argued that these were out of HC's purview on jurisdictional grounds. Sunjay died on July 12 last year after collapsing during a polo match in England. He suffered a cardiac arrest after reportedly ingesting a live bee.

Bombay HC orders ₹25k payout for illegal arrest of 70-yr-old man

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Nagpur: Police can't take an accused into custody without informing the arrestee the grounds of arrest in writing, Bombay high court has cited Supreme Court directions, ordering Maharashtra govt to pay Rs 25,000 as compensation to a 70-year-old petitioner for infringement on his personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Justices Urmila Joshi Phalke and Nivedita Mehta of the high court's Nagpur bench made strong observations on the role of law enforcement on Monday, stating that "when a police officer is a violator of law, the punishment for such violation has to be proportionately stringent so as to have an effective deterrent."

The elderly petitioner, a businessman, moved the HC, challenging his arrest in a case filed by his daughter-in-law who accused him of outraging her modesty and other offences. He contended that police flouted mandatory legal procedures and arrested him even after he responded to a police notice.

Bombay HC's Nagpur bench said that when a police officer is violator of law, punishment has to be proportionately stringent so as to have an effective deterrent

The court noted the notice "nowhere mentions the ground for arrest". It observed police didn't provide arrest memorandum.

Citing SC directions, the court underscored that arrest in cognisable offences punishable up to seven years is not automatic and must strictly meet criteria.

₹2L payout over truck seizure in UP 'beef' case

Prayagraj: Allahabad high court has ordered UP govt to pay Rs 2 lakh compensation to a Baghpat resident whose transport vehicle was seized over an unproven allegation of carrying beef. Court granted govt liberty to recover amount from officials responsible for the illegal confiscation 18 months ago.

HC, allowing a writ petition by Mohammad Chand, quashed seizure orders and directed release of his vehicle within three days. It held that the action caused serious economic loss, as the vehicle was petitioner's source of livelihood. Baghpat Police had confiscated the vehicle in Oct 2024. Record showed veterinary exam did not conclusively identify the recovered meat as beef and recommended confirmatory tests. TNN

SC reserves verdict on Khera's bail plea

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Thursday reserved the verdict on the anticipatory bail of senior Congress leader **Pawan Khera** in the criminal case which was registered against him by Assam CM's wife for alleging that she possessed multiple passports and undisclosed offshore properties.

A bench of justices J K Maheshwari and A S Chandurkar concluded the hearing on plea of Khera who challenged Gauhati High Court verdict dismissing his pre-arrest bail petition.

Pressing for bail, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi told the bench that the chief minister had been making several objectionable remarks against the Congress leader which showed that he will be arrested even though custodial interrogation is not needed in the case.

"Dr B R Ambedkar would turn in his grave if he had imagined that a constitutional office holder would speak like a constitutional cowboy or a constitutional Rambo," Singhvi submitted.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Assam govt, opposed the plea and said Khera showed fake and doctored copies of passports of the chief minister's wife. He told the bench that Khera had been absconding and all the allegations about the chief minister's wife holding multiple citizenships are false.

Hate speech antithetical to constitutional values: SC

New Delhi: With many public figures and holders of constitutional posts making statements with communal and caste overtones, SC has appealed to them to maintain restraint in public discourse and said that hate speech strikes at the very root of fraternity, plurality and multiculturalism in the country.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said hate speech stems from a perception of difference that breeds exclusion, where "other" is viewed as alien, inferior or undeserving of equal regard. "Hate speech is not merely a deviation from acceptable discourse; it is fundamentally antithetical to constitutional value of fraternity and strikes at moral fabric of our Republic," court said. TNN

Monkey on runway disrupts 2 flights in UP

Lucknow: A Raipur-bound IndiGo flight narrowly avoided collision with a monkey that strayed onto the runway at Lucknow airport, moments after it began take-off roll Thursday, **reports Arvind Chauhan**. About 200m into the take-off roll, pilots of IndiGo flight 6E6521, with 170 passengers and crew, spotted a monkey on the runway and aborted take-off to avoid a likely collision.

The flight returned to the apron and took off at 10.04am, instead of its original departure time of 8.55am after an inspection. Air India Express flight IX 1392 coming from Delhi was forced to circle the city's airspace twice due to concerns over monkey presence. A source said this was the first time operations at Lucknow airport was disrupted due to a monkey's presence. The source said the animal is believed to have come from a mango orchard near the airport.

BONUS PINK SEASON AT NASHIK BIRD PARK

MARCH SAID LEAVE, FLAMINGOS SAID ONE MORE ROUND: Thousands of flamingos have transformed Nandur Madhyameshwar bird sanctuary into a sea of vivid pink. Though the migratory birds typically depart by March, their arrival in late April has turned the expansive wetland into a hotspot for bird-watchers and photographers, while signalling a major victory for conservation efforts. Their sighting, which caught forest officials by surprise, is being credited to a thriving habitat, specifically sustained water levels and an abundance of algae—the birds' primary food source. Known as 'Bharatpur of Maharashtra', the sanctuary, in Niphad taluka of Maharashtra's Nashik district, has seen a surge in visitors. Authorities believe recent interventions, such as removal of invasive vegetation and creation of shallow water zones, have significantly enhanced the habitat, allowing it to support the birds beyond their usual window

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- 05 HEGGANAHALLI Ph : [illegible]
- 06 HENNUR MAIN ROAD Ph : [illegible]
- 07 JAYANAGAR Ph : [illegible]
- 08 RT NAGAR Ph : [illegible]
- 09 MAHADEVAPURA Ph : [illegible]
- 10 RAJAJINAGAR PREMIUM STORE [illegible]
- 11 PUTTENAHALLI Ph : [illegible]
- 12 UTTARAHALLI Ph : [illegible]
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